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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to go up to Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA



North Korea says it cut its last military hotline with Seoul.

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SCIENCE & TECH



Google Street View gives a rare glimpse into one of Japan's eerie ghost towns.

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LIFE & STYLE



The sequel to 'G.I. Joe' is back on the mission after a 3-D delay.

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Rebirth of CNMI TOURISM



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, listens to the speaker yesterday during the Marianas Visitors Authority's general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. Also in photo are Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, right, and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz. CNMI tourism is predicted to reach record numbers beginning this fiscal year.

Inos backs improved status for long-term foreign workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he supports the general idea of granting improved immigration status to long-term legal foreign workers in the CNMI, although like anyone else he has yet to see an actual bipartisan, comprehensive immigration bill in Congress

that has a provision specific to the Commonwealth.

Inos said if and when he agrees with the CNMI language in that bill, he will consider writing a letter of support.

"We've discussed that and I am going to have to review that thoroughly. It's to the point where if we're in agreement, then we'll write a letter supporting it... I have to take a look at the legislation,"

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at the Marianas Visitors Authority general membership meeting yesterday.

The governor confirmed that he and Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) talked about Sablan's efforts to have a CNMI-specific provision in an immigration reform bill.

"We've talked about his efforts in See WORKERS on Page 4

Stations of the Cross on Tapochao

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today's Good Friday trek up Mt. Tapochao will be different as the road leading to the island's highest point will feature for the first time a "Via Crucis" or Stations of the Cross, encouraging hikers to reflect on the meaning of the annual Lenten tradition

See STATIONS on Page 4

➤ Giant wooden cross to go up before 6am today

Protest snags \$2M traffic light upgrade

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

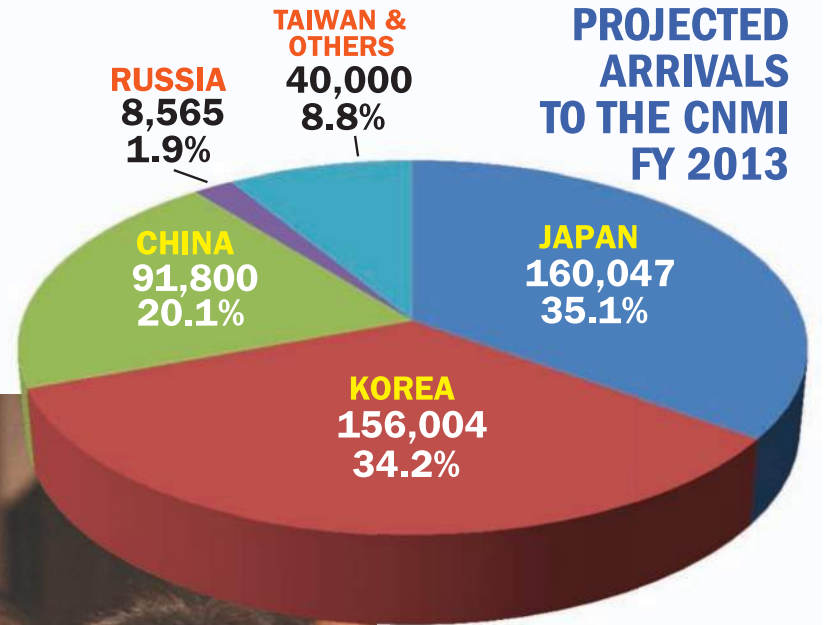
An estimated \$2-million upgrade of Saipan's 19 traffic lights, some of which have not been functioning for a year now, has been snagged by a bidder protest now pending with Finance's Division of Procurement and Supply.

"That protest needs to be addressed first before we can actually award the contract and keep this

project going," said Department of Public Works secretary Martin Sablan, who got his old job back on Tuesday albeit in an acting capacity for now, pending the Senate's confirmation.

Sablan said yesterday that DPW was poised to award the contract to RadioCom but Maeda Pacific filed a formal protest, details of which have yet to be released as of yesterday afternoon.

Procurement and Supply director Herman Sa- See PROTEST on Page 4



Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

» Low-cost carriers expected to fly to the islands soon
» Record numbers projected despite crisis in hotel rooms

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A marketing expert described 2013 as an exciting year for the rebirth of CNMI tourism, which is projected to start generating record numbers in arrivals despite a hotel-rooms crisis.

Serving as keynote speaker in yesterday's regular membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Michael Merner, chairman of the AVIAREPS Marketing Garden, said that the Commonwealth will remain dependent on Japanese travelers.

He said the Japan market remains the See TOURISM on Page 4

Inos keeps Lifofoi; yet to decide on Babauta. PAGE 3
Budget submission postponed to May 1. PAGE 9

Local

NMI AmeriCorps program is spared from budget cuts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System was assured by the federal government that the Commonwealth's AmeriCorps Program will continue to receive grants despite a series of automatic cuts in federal funding starting this fiscal year.

AmeriCorps Program coordinator Victoria S. Nicholas said yesterday that she received formal notice from the granting agency, Corporation for National & Community Service, indicating that the program will not be affected by sequestration in school year 2012-2013.

This means no deductions in the current budget, including any adverse effect on program operations and members or beneficiaries being served.

The AmeriCorps Program is essentially as student mentoring program and has been under PSS since 2002.

"We are very, very lucky that our funding for this program year has remained intact so we can continue to fully serve disadvantaged students in the Commonwealth and improve their academic performance," Nicholas told *Saipan Tribune*.

The AmeriCorps program has a total funding of \$338,551 this year, covering program management, operations, and member activities. The AmeriCorps grant is a three-year cycle funding and PSS is currently on its second year. If it will be funded the same amount every year, the total grant would reach over \$1 million in three years.

AmeriCorps provides peer-to-peer instruction and mentoring for at-risk students performing at the bottom quartile in standardized tests to improve reading scores and proficiency. Members are also given experience to make career choices in teaching after earning college degrees.

According to Nicholas, members who serve a minimum

number of volunteer service hours receive an education award that can be used toward obtaining their college degree. The program also engages members in intensive service via selected service learning opportunities.

For this program year, AmeriCorps has 58 student members: 42 on Saipan; 10 on Tinian; and six on Rota.

"The AmeriCorps program is a critical program to our entire community in the CNMI and we should all work together to ensure program continuity in the CNMI, particularly under the PSS. This program provides an invaluable service to all involved to ensure a healthier and more prosperous community today and in the future," said Nicholas.

'Research-based'

According to Nicholas, AmeriCorps' efforts are focused on disadvantaged students who need help improving their reading levels so they can become more proficient readers.

"Our program design of cross-age peer tutoring is a proven research-based method of improving student academic performance," she said.

AmeriCorps student members become role models in schools and communities and are admired, respected, and imitated by other students. They gain confidence and a true sense of self-worth because they see the impact of their volunteer efforts in the improvement of reading scores.

"The physical manifestation of their hard work is in their education award that can be used toward obtaining a college degree," Nicholas said.

The education award amount for this year is \$2,114 per member who completes a minimum of 675 service hours.

The use of AmeriCorps members also alleviates some pressure from classroom teachers who otherwise have to put in more hours and efforts toward improving reading proficiency.



STOP CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CAMPAIGN!

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What Is child sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child. It can include the acts most people think of when it comes to sexual abuse, like fondling or forcing a child to have sex. But it can also include non-physical acts like exposing oneself to a child, talking about sex inappropriately or making a child watch or pose for pornography.

Sadly, there's no such guarantee. One of the biggest, and most dangerous, myths is that only strangers sexually abuse children.

The truth is that anyone can sexually abuse a child—and it's often someone the victim knows. Sexual abusers can be teachers, cousins, siblings, baby sitters, youth leaders—and even parents themselves.

Sexual abuse can also happen anywhere—at home or school, during the day or at night, and even over the Internet.



If kids were kept away from strangers, will we be safe?



How do people who abuse kids get them to go along with it?

Sexual abusers have many ways of getting kids to go along with what they want. Abusers who know their victims often take advantage of the trust kids have in them. They may trick a child into doing something by making it seem like a fun game. Or, they may bribe the child with gifts or favors.

In some cases, abusers may use their larger size to overpower a small child. Or, they may use positions of power to make a child think he or she has to do what the abuser says to keep from getting in trouble.

If anyone ever tries to touch you in a way that feels wrong or scary, be assertive and say "NO! Do not touch me!", or run away and seek help. Make sure you tell a grown up you trust like your parents, a teacher, school nurse or police officer.

What do I do to protect myself from Sexual Abuse?



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Girl Talk

Inos keeps Lifoifoi; yet to decide on Babauta

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' administration has decided, with finality, to keep Jose Lifoifoi at the helm of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Lifoifoi earlier tendered his courtesy resignation but it was rejected by Inos, saying the latter is an asset to the government and the CNMI. Days after this re-appointment, two officials of the CPA ports police were

arrested for allegedly helping shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August last year. These CPA officers were police chief Jordan Kosam and CPA's Capt. Juan Rebuonog.

In its wake, Inos stated that Lifoifoi's appointment to CPA will be revisited in light of the involvement of these ports police officials.

Yesterday, Inos said the administration's "research" on the

matter is done and that he is satisfied with the result.

"I have done some research... and I am satisfied with the answers I received regarding a few issues. So...I am keeping him," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday's regular membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Lifoifoi was re-elected in January as the chairman of the CPA board. He is also currently the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. He was also House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, and the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Lifoifoi's current term at CPA is due on Jan. 17, 2015.

Besides Lifoifoi, four other members of the board submit-

Inos keeps 4 more board members

Gov. Eloy S. Inos declined yesterday additional courtesy resignations submitted by four individuals serving on four different boards.

The governor is keeping Herman B. Cabrera as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing; Gus Kaipat as a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board; Barrie Toves as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors; and Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei as a member of the Historic Preservation Review Board.

These latest decisions of the five-week-old administration are part of an ongoing performance

review of Cabinet members and agencies.

"Based on assessments by Lt. Gov. Hofschneider and I, we are pleased to have these members continue their services on the boards they respectively serve on. We will continue to expect the highest standards of public service from them as they continue to carry out their duties," Inos said in a statement.

This week, the governor also announced keeping Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, press secretary Angel A. Demapan, and Commonwealth Zoning Board member Natalie Mable E. Ayuyu. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

ted courtesy resignations to the governor: board vice chair Manny Villagomez for Tinian, Rota board member Barrie Toves, and Saipan representatives Benigno Sablan and Margaret Prater.

Inos said he has yet to decide on these members.

Meantime, Inos also said yesterday that no decision has been reached on the employment contract of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N.

Babauta, whose contract was not renewed by the board last March 21. The CEO's contract is expiring on July 9.

"I don't have anything yet [on that issue] until I meet with the CEO," added Inos.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Woman set on fire

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on an assault case involving a female victim who was set on fire at the San Antonio Super Market.

On March 26, 2013, at about 9pm, the victim, a 49-year-old local female, was attempting to get into her car parked outside the San Antonio Super Market. The victim was suddenly pushed from behind and she fell into her car. She felt liquid being poured on her from behind and suddenly she was on fire.

The suspect is described as possibly an Asian male, wearing a white T-shirt with a pair of black long slacks. He was last seen fleeing the scene on foot heading south toward the Pacific Islands Club area with his hands on fire. The suspect may have suffered burn injuries on both hands.

The victim ran into the store screaming for help. Employees of the store along with by-

standers helped extinguish the flames on the victim and the inside of her car.

The victim suffered second-degree burns on both hands and her entire back. She was transported by ambulance to the hospital and admitted for treatment.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)

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TO HELP PROLONG MARPI LANDFILL'S LIFESPAN

\$40M-\$50M waste-to-energy project pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A proposed \$40- to \$50-million waste-to-energy project on Saipan will not only provide cheaper electricity but also help prolong Marpi landfill's lifespan, Wisconsin-based Alliance Federated Energy and CNMI's Joeten Enterprises, along with lawmakers, said yesterday.

Under the proposed project, the CNMI government will have to supply trash to Alliance Federated Energy and then buy the "byproduct" energy from the firm at a cost much lower than the almost 40 cents per kwh that regular customers currently pay for their power.

The proposed waste feedstock agreement is for a minimum of 15 years.

"It will be at no cost to the government," said Norman Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises, a local business partner for Alliance Federated Energy.

Tenorio accompanied AFE president Ben VanKorn during a presentation before lawmakers yesterday morning.

They also plan to meet with the governor, the Department of Public Works and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to discuss their proposal. AFE and Joeten have been studying the project's viability on Saipan for quite some time now.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview, said he would like to get more information from the investor about this alternative energy. He said he would like to find out, for example, whether there's enough trash to generate energy.

For some 100 tons of trash, AFE will be able to generate up to 5MW or more of energy every day.

Enrique Dela Cruz, manager of the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Division, separately said yesterday that there's estimated over 81 tons of trash generated and brought to their facilities daily but he has to recalculate the volume "to make sure this is really what we're getting. This is just an estimate."

Dela Cruz said Marpi landfill's cell number 1 still has some 40 feet to accommodate additional trash consider-

ing there's daily compacting.

He said if the proposed waste-to-energy project pans out, then the CNMI may have a breakthrough in how it handles its daily trash and it need not build additional cells to take in the trash. They will also cut landfill maintenance costs by having trash converted into energy.

"If that project will help prolong the life of this landfill and at the same time give us a cheaper supply of power, then that should be something to consider," said Dela Cruz, adding that AFE officials also visited the Solid Waste Division in Lower Base yesterday afternoon.

The Wisconsin-based Alliance Federated Energy is a developer of renewable energy and related infrastructure projects focused on environmentally sustainable technologies, with a specific focus on plasma gasification technology to generate electric and thermal energy and bio-fuels, its company profile says.

Gasification is the process in which biomass such as waste from the Marpi landfill or trash from homes and businesses is converted into a fuel source.

PROTEST

From Page 1

blan and Maeda Pacific separately confirmed the procurement protest.

Thomas C. Camacho, manager of DPW's traffic signal and highway inspector, said the estimated \$2-million project to upgrade Saipan's traffic lights is funded by the federal government.

For quite some time now, the traffic signals in front of DFS Galleria and ABC Stores in the tourist district

of Garapan and the one by Saipan Ice in Lower Base have not been properly functioning. The traffic light by the Quarter Master Road intersection was only recently fixed.

Camacho said there are 21 traffic signals on Saipan, including the two new ones in Kagman and San Vicente that don't need an upgrade.

He said the 19 traffic signals were installed sometime in 1995 and their systems are now considered "obsolete" and some take time to be repaired because their parts are no longer available.

"Because it's costly and takes time

to repair the old ones, why not just upgrade the traffic lights using federal funds? So we did," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

However, because of procurement protest, upgrade of these traffic lights may have to wait a little longer.

"The holdup is in the contract award. Hopefully this matter will be resolved soon," he said, adding that there were at least eight companies that participated in the bid.

Many multimillion projects in the CNMI have been delayed months and years due to procurement protests.

TOURISM

From Page 1

islands' top market destination. Japan, along with Korea, accounted for 70 percent of the total market arrivals in the Commonwealth.

"We see a strong recovery in the Japan market. So our forecast, this year we will see record numbers and the highest level since [Japan Airlines] pulled out in 2005," he said.

Merner also sees a "new exciting opportunity" for the CNMI with the possible entry of new LLCs, or low cost carriers, to the CNMI, hopefully this year.

MVA, he said, is in constant contact with new LLCs about the possibility of launching flights to the CNMI. He said Star Flyer and Air Asia are among the leading contenders.

A low-cost carrier is generally an airline with fewer frills and lower fares.

He believes that LLCs, once introduced in the CNMI, will dramatically change the tourism structure of the islands.

Merner said the Japanese economy is picking up due to increases in industrial production, corporate profits, business investment, and the employment situation. Japan's economic growth rate is projected at 1.5 percent in fiscal year 2013. Major Japanese companies gave salary increases in January—up to .07 percent—the first increase in nine months.

Last fiscal year, 18.5 million Japanese traveled overseas. Merner said this is up 8.8 percent from 2011 due to the strong yen, rebound in demand, new routes from Haneda Airport, and

the entry of LLCs in the market.

Merner said the CNMI will directly benefit from this growth by tapping Japanese travelers all year round. Merner said that Japan airlift to the CNMI is seen to increase by 4 percent, estimated at 198,651 this fiscal year. This figure is higher than fiscal year 2012's airlift of 192,161.

However, to realize this big growth in the industry, Merner said the CNMI has to come up with a solid solution to address the lack of hotel rooms, especially on peak seasons.

Airlift is key to boosting arrivals but this should be complemented with enough number of hotel rooms, he added.

Also seen as a challenge is the lack of new developments and new openings on island that will attract more tourists.

The CNMI is also projected to benefit from a similar economic progress in South Korea and China. LLCs are also projected to be launched from Korea and top contenders are Jeju Air and Jin Air. Charters and new flights are also being worked out with both destinations.

Merner pointed out, however, that the CNMI must work hard on the China market since the destination remains relatively unknown there.

600 hotel rooms closed

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce disclosed yesterday that an estimated 600 hotel rooms are closed on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at this time, negatively affecting MVA's efforts to bring more tourists to the islands.

If these rooms are opened, this will translate to 116,568 additional annual tourist arrivals to the CNMI, she said. In economic impact, this means an ad-

ditional \$256 million for the CNMI and 2,598 additional jobs for both the public and private sectors.

Aldan-Pierce said the CNMI projects arrivals in fiscal year 2013 to reach 652,979, which translates to \$1.5 billion in projected economic impact and 6,873 jobs in the public sector and 7,682 jobs in the private sector.

She attributes the good numbers for the tourism industry this year to many factors including the "renewed" interest of people.

Finally, she said, people got the message that tourism is everyone's business and is 24/7. She also lauded the partnerships shown by the community and private and public sectors through cleanups and beautification projects.

Inos vows to address hotel room crisis

Gov. Eloy S. Inos vowed yesterday to help address the lack of hotel rooms.

He blamed the shortage on the closure of many hotels such as Palms Resort Saipan, Coral Ocean Point, Hotel Riviera, and Plumeria.

"We need to put them back online," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, among the guests in yesterday's meeting, described the presentation as "very interesting" and that arrivals figures are important in making the government's revenue projections.

The governor revealed that based on his proposed budget for fiscal year 2014, their arrival projection is at 500,000—slightly lower than the 600,000 projected in yesterday's presentation.

However, Inos said that arrivals may change in the coming months.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said he supports AFE's proposal.

"Even though renewable energy is an important component of this, addressing our solid waste issues in itself justifies having this type of project," Deleon Guerrero said.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), vice chair of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said the proposed project "definitely will prolong the longevity of the landfill if not totally eliminate it."

"With regards to lowering the cost of power, the numbers have yet to be

discussed until the company finalizes its assessments. All things considered, I believe that this will be good for the CNMI," he said.

Rep. Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said AFE's proposed waste-to-energy project is a "viable" source of alternative energy for the CNMI to lessen its dependence on fossil fuel and lower its utility costs.

The CNMI government is trying to tap alternative or renewable energy such as amassing solar, wind and geothermal power as well as waste-to-energy, liquefied natural gas and safe nuclear energy.

STATIONS

From Page 1

among Catholics and other Christians on Saipan.

Fr. Nonoy Recaido of the Santa Remedios Church, in charge of this year's pilgrimage of the cross to the top of Mt. Tapochao, said that for many years, many of those who climb Mt. Tapochao do it for "socialization" purposes, losing track of the real meaning behind the tradition.

This prompted Recaido to have the Santa Remedios Church Council, parishioners, and other volunteers set up yesterday the Stations of the Cross along the course Mt. Tapochao road in time for today's celebration.

Each station is marked by a small wooden cross about 6 feet tall and a corresponding prayer that focuses on the Passion of Christ and His crucifixion and death on Golgotha.

Recaido urged all pilgrims who will ascend Mt. Tapochao to stop by the Stations of the Cross and engrave in their hearts and minds the true essence of Good Friday.

"Good Friday is a celebration reminding us Catholics that the death of Jesus Christ is not only a drama that happened 2,000 years ago. His death and suffering is for our salvation, so let us not forget that. Our hike up to Mt. Tapochao is our devotion to the way

of the cross, our Via Crucis," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Recaido also said that Good Friday is a "beautiful reminder" about God's immeasurable love for all despite mankind's sinfulness.

"We are encouraged to contemplate on His love for us; that despite our sins and wrongdoings, God does not count how many times we have fallen down. Instead, He counts how many times we got up from our fall," he said.

Although people have their own crosses to bear in their lifetime, Recaido affirmed that this cross is not as heavy as what Jesus had to endure for the deliverance of man's sins.

Recaido said that everything is set for the observance of Good Friday. He said the giant wooden cross will be blessed at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 4:30am before it is transported to the foot of Mt. Tapochao.

From there, some 30 devotees will carry the giant wooden cross to the mountain summit where it will be erected and where the reading of the Liturgy of the Word and the Gospel will take place as part of a decades-long religious tradition.

Recaido said they expect to complete the process early to avoid the scorching heat of the sun.

"We invite the people to meditate deeply on the celebration of Good Friday," he added.

WORKERS

From Page 1

trying to get a different provision and not the standard provision that is being sought by the administration over there... I think we'd like to bring that to a final resolution so that a lot of people affected know what to expect," the governor said.

A bipartisan group in Congress and the Obama administration are looking at granting a pathway to citizenship to millions of undocumented aliens in the U.S. mainland.

Worker groups and their supporters said the CNMI situation should be treated differently because most of the long-term foreign workers came to the CNMI legally and continue to contribute to the local economy 10 or more years since arriving here.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, said that Inos' support will be a "key ingredient" in addressing the plight of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

"For the first time, the head of state is supporting what we have been requesting for a long time and what the U.S. Interior recommended to the U.S. Congress and I feel there's now a lot better chance for us to be heard because both the head of state and the delegate are

working together on this," he said, hoping that this unified voice will continue.

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said, "This is the real backing that we need—not next month, not next year, but now."

"The best backing that the guest workers need is their sincerity and solid humane concern by taking a solid step by way of communicating with U.S. Congress, by pushing OIA [Interior] recommendations," he said last night.

Sablan earlier told reporters that "progress is being made" on an immigration bill in Congress that is expected to include giving improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Worker groups in the CNMI also wrote letters to Sablan, the Inos administration and the CNMI Legislature, urging their support for lawful permanent residency or "green card" for qualified nonresidents.

Any CNMI-specific improved immigration status provision, however, would require an additional waiting time from the date the bill becomes law. This could be an additional five to eight years, and applies to those who have been in the CNMI for at least five years as of May 2008 as contained in the Interior's 2010 recommendation to Congress.

Probable cause found in two sexual abuse cases

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against two men who were recently arrested for separate cases of sexual abuse of minors, one of whom is now pregnant.

In separate preliminary hearings on Tuesday, Camacho found probable cause to believe that the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree was committed

Judge acquits woman of obstructing justice

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has acquitted a woman accused of obstructing justice in relation to the arrest of her husband on sexual assault charges.

Camacho discharged Xia Liu Rios of all charges.

During a bench trial on Thursday, the judge granted defense counsel Robert Meyer's motion for judgment of acquittal and dismissed two counts of obstructing justice.

Camacho also found Rios not guilty of the remaining charges: four counts of disturbing the peace and one count of obstructing justice.

In a written order on Tuesday, Camacho said it is settled that in a criminal trial, the government bears the burden of proving each element of its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

"It is the holding of this court, for the reasons set forth during the rendering of the in-court opinion, that the prosecution failed to meet its burden with regard to the charges offenses," the judge said.

A police detective stated in her report that the mother of a teenager who was sexual assaulted by Rios' husband, Anthony Peter Rios, alleged that Xia Liu Rios had called her on

and that defendants Anthony Gapach Castro, 21, and Donald Ayuyu Hocog, 45, may have committed the offense.

Camacho also found probable cause to believe that the crime of child abuse was committed and that Hocog may have committed it.

Castro and Hocog will be arraigned on April 1 at 9am.

As for two other charges filed against Hocog, Camacho found no probable cause to

the phone regarding Anthony Peter Rios' case.

Xia Liu Rios allegedly wanted the mother to tell her daughter to inform the police that what happened to her and Anthony Peter Rios was a misunderstanding.

Xia Liu Rios allegedly threatened to report the daughter's immigration status to authorities if she does not comply.

Xia Liu Rios also allegedly threatened to get someone from China to harm the daughter.

Xia Liu Rios denied all charges.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField prosecuted the case.

On Thursday, a Superior Court jury found Anthony Peter Rios not guilty of charges that he touched the genitals of the teenage girl in two separate incidents.

Camacho, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found the 38-year-old Anthony Peter Rios guilty of one count of assault and battery and one count of disturbing the peace. The judge found Anthony Peter Rios not guilty of one count of assault and battery, and one count of disturbing the peace. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

warrant the filing of one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of child abuse. Camacho dismissed without prejudice the two charges.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField appeared for the government at the hearing. Court-appointed counsel Vincent Torres defended Castro, while assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Hocog.

Police detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that a police officer responded to a school on Jan. 24, 2013, after receiving a report of an incident involving sexual abuse of a minor.

Hermosilla said the officer learned that a student could

not perform any physical fitness activities during Physical Education classes as she is pregnant.

The girl identified the father of her unborn child as her boy-

friend, Castro.

In Hocog's case, police detective Jesse K. Seman stated in his report that, on March 13, 2013, a Division of Youth Services representative interviewed

a 13-year-old girl who confessed that Hocog began sexually abusing her when she was 6 years old. The last incident allegedly occurred in 2011. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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2 local laws give \$134K for Tinian patients, programs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Tinian officials by his side, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into local law yesterday two bills appropriating a total of \$134,000 in poker license fees for Tinian patients and other programs.

Inos signed Rep. Trenton Conner's (Ind-Tinian) House Local Bill 18-1, Draft 2 into Ti-

nian Local Law 18-1, as well as his HLB 18-6 into Tinian Local Law 18-2.

The newly-signed Tinian Local Law 18-1 gives \$40,000 in poker license fees for the following: \$27,000 for the July to December 2012 subsistence allowance of certain patients from Tinian on dialysis, those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure

disorder, dermatomyositis and post-cerebral vascular accident patients; \$4,000 for Tinian Health Center's emergency medical referral assistance for patients from Tinian; \$2,000 for Tinian Senior Citizens Center for kitchen supplies; and \$7,000 for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguigan to pay for two riding mowers.

"I thank the governor for

signing these bills into law. For sickly patients, it's a long time coming. I hope that everybody will be helped out," Conner told *Saipan Tribune*.

The second local law appropriates \$94,000 in poker license fees for the following: \$27,000 for the January and onwards monthly allowance of patients from Tinian; \$7,000 for the Tin-

ian Little League District Meet; \$15,000 for the repair of Department of Public Safety-Fire Division's fire truck and \$2,500 for fuel; \$30,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship; \$5,000 for the Tinian Mayor's Office's emergency medical referral payments (\$2,500 each for Freedom Air and Star Marianas Airlines); and \$7,500 for Tin-

ian High School's "Youth for Youth" trip to Guam.

Besides Conner, the four other officials from Tinian present during yesterday afternoon's bill signing were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Sen. Joaquin Borja (R-Tinian).



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs into law two local Tinian bills appropriating poker license fees for Tinian patients and other programs yesterday afternoon. Looking on, from left, are Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Joaquin Borja (R-Tinian), and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.



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Initiative seeks to scrap double dipping, 5-year credit service

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan) introduced Wednesday an initiative to remove not only the so-called "double dipping" but also a constitutional provision granting five years credited service for employees with not less than 20 years credited service, to help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan beyond March 2014.

Double dipping refers to the receipt of retirement benefits and an employment salary at the same time.

Taitano, chairman of the House Special Committee on Retirement Fund, said that allowing double dipping is no longer necessary to attract certain groups of employees to return to government service.

He was referring to exemptions granted to classroom teachers, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals,

who could be re-employed without losing their retirement benefits for up to two years.

Taitano's House Legislative Initiative 18-3 also says eliminating the provision granting five years credited service for employees with not less than 20 years credited service "will not affect vested members of the Retirement Fund," and will not apply to any new retirement program the government may establish in the future.

The initiative amends Article 3 Section 20(b) of the CNMI Constitution.

Because this is an initiative, its passage in the Legislature will put it on the ballot for voters to decide on, during a special election or the next general election.

During Wednesday's session, Taitano also invited his fellow House members to attend the April 1 hearing at 10am in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on retiree Betty Johnson's lawsuit against the Fund.

15 pct. hotel occupancy tax starting April 1

The Division of Revenue and Taxation announced yesterday that effective April 1, 2013, Public Law 18-1 establishes the hotel occupancy tax at 15 percent of the amount charged or paid for the accommodation. The room tax is imposed on transient occupants of a room or rooms in a hotel, lodging, motel, resort

motel, apartment motel, or condominium located in the Commonwealth.

A revised tax form will be available online at the Department of Finance's website, www.cnmidof.net.

For more information, contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1098. (Office of the Governor)

He asked lawmakers to show their concern on Fund issues, citing a judge's previous remark that lawmakers don't seem to care. Taitano said only he and Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) were at the previous hearing.

Bid to abolish municipal councils on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa will feature of the Saipan Municipal Council chair Ramon Camacho this Saturday March 30, 2013 between 10am and 10:30am to talk about the House legislative initiative to abolish municipal councils that was introduced by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov.-Saipan) in order to cut cost and eliminate the duplication of work within other offices such as mayors' offices.

Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use instant messaging via Marianas Agupa's Facebook account).

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, with reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola, David M. Cing, John DelRosario Jr., and Antonio R. Cabrera.

Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, contact Manglona at 287-4536. (PR)

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DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.'s staffer Keomi Palacios presents a partnership award to Sweet Escape partners Erica Thornburgh and Jessica Sonoda for their newly formed partnership in Pacifica Insurance's loyalty discount program—Pacifica Loyalty. Sweet Escape will be extending a 15-percent discount toward the purchase of a second dozen of cupcakes. They are located in Garapan on the first floor of the Chamorro House Building. Pacifica Loyalty is open to all businesses who wish to offer discounts and other benefits to clients of Pacifica Insurance. Details about this program is available online at www.pacificains.com/pacificaloyalty.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Senate, House OK 13 bills, resolutions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate and House approved at least 13 bills and resolutions during their Tuesday and Wednesday sessions, respectively. They include Sen. Ray Yumul's (IR-Saipan) Senate Bill 18-16, Senate Draft 2 establishing one life and health insurance for all government employees that the Department of Finance will administer.

In Wednesday's session, the House adopted six resolutions, including commending U.S. Army Col. Harry C. Blanco for his recent promotion and for being the highest ranking military officer from the CNMI; Lt. Col. Gregorio Vicente M. Sablan Jr. for his achievements; Heather L. Ken-

edy for her services to the CNMI Judiciary; and Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for their superior performance at the 9th Annual Tumon Bay International Music Festival.

House members also adopted a commemorative resolution in appreciation of former Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi's services while he was in the CNMI, as well as a joint resolution urging that the U.S. and CNMI flags be flown every day at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

By a vote of 18-0, the House passed Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (IR-Saipan) House Bill 18-1, ratifying the adoption of the 2009 editions of the International Building Code, the International Fire Code and related construc-

tion codes, and creating a committee to develop a new CNMI Building Code council.

Also passed Wednesday was House floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) HB 18-9, amending the Developer Infrastructure Tax Act.

The House also passed Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro's (R-Saipan) initiative to amend Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution.

During Tuesday's session, senators passed by a vote of 8-0 Yumul's SB 18-18, adding a new section to Public Law 17-80 so that some essential positions requiring a degree of expertise or special knowledge such as attorneys need not to go through normal public service recruitment procedures.

Senators also passed by an 8-0 vote Vice President Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) SB 18-15 amending the Free Trade Zone Act, and Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) SB 18-17 adding one student representative to the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Sen. Pete Reyes' (IR-Saipan) SB 18-7, meanwhile, was referred back to the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee for further review. The bill mandates the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to change the water and sewage rate for the Public School System from government rate to commercial rate to help reduce PSS' financial burdens.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jonas Barcinas, who is celebrating his special day today, March 29! Wishing you all the happiness and wealth so you could continue your legacy of helping others in many different ways. You are a true leader and your accomplishments, achievements, and services speaks only of your commitment and dedication to what you do best.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Daniel from your loving family! We adore you so much! You are the greatest present we have ever received! Wishing you health and wealth!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Cerlyn Roligat Cabrera-Seman, who is celebrating her special day today, March 29, 2013! May you have many more birthday years to come! God bless! From your AZ/CO/SD families!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 29, 2004

Rota overproducing farm crops, but can't sell them

ROTA—Dumping of local grown farm products occurs in the CNMI as a result of "over production," according to a local agriculture expert here. Alejandro E. Badilles, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services pest management coordinator, said in an interview that local farmers have actually been yielding good harvests, but the local market cannot accommodate them. "Dumping of farm produce takes place because they are not sold," said Badilles. He said this happens due to obvious factors: having a very small island market, abundance of imported farm products in the local stores, and high shipping costs.

Funding woes affect Rota students

ROTA—College and school administrators here have acknowledged that student academic competitiveness is negatively affected by lack of funds. In a meeting with education commissioner Rita H. Inos on Friday, school principals and Northern Marianas College campus administrator Severina A. Ogo, said that most of the time, Rota and Tinian students could not participate in off-island student activities mainly for lack of budget. They said that although they resort to fundraising, still this is not enough to promote wider student participation in important events. "That's the setback for Rota and Tinian students. Is there a way to incorporate that in the budget? Our lawmakers need to see these (student) activities and events as (regular) function of schools," said Ogo.

Mar. 29, 2005

'Flu vaccine enough for high-risk groups'

Public Health Secretary James Hofschneider assured the community yesterday that the Department of Public Health has enough flu vaccines to treat all high-risk groups in the CNMI. High-risk groups are individuals over the age of 60, those with diabetes, young children with lung problems and repeated asthma, and adults and children with significant heart conditions. The DPH official made the statement in reaction to earlier reports saying that the CNMI lacks enough flu vaccines to treat its population of over 75,000. Hofschneider, in a media release, said the public should not worry about the lack of flu vaccines because the CNMI has received enough medicine to cover all high-risk groups not only on Saipan but on Rota and Tinian as well.

Councils group defends empowerment initiative

Sensing a threat to their proposal, the CNMI Association of Municipal Councils told the Legislature not to panic over a proposed measure that aims to give them power to legislate on local matters. The group, which consists of municipal councils of Saipan and Northern Islands, Tinian, and Rota, said that the CNMI Legislature would keep its "supreme power" over Commonwealth issues. "We understand that relinquishing Legislative powers may be difficult but members of our Legislature shall fear nothing because they have the supreme power in legislating Commonwealth-wide laws," said the group in a position paper recently submitted to the House of Representatives.

Mar. 29, 2006

PSS spending for students down

Commonwealth spending for each public school student was 34.64 percent less than that spent by the federal government, according to an audit of the Public School System's financial statements in fiscal year 2004. The PSS single audit showed that the CNMI government spent \$5,756 per child between October 2003 and September 2004. Federal spending for each child amounted to \$8,807 during that year. The audit, conducted by the J. Scott Magliari & Company auditing firm, also indicated that the total spending per child had not varied significantly from 2000 through 2004.

Admin, House at opposite ends on fishing base issue

The House of Representatives on Monday expressed opposition to the Fitial administration's decision to cancel the public market project for the Garapan fishing base. The 18-member House, led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's allies from the Covenant Party, unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the local farmers and fishermen's petition for the governor to reconsider the cancellation of the public market project. But the administration, which had offered the site to an Ohio-based investor that sought to build a floating hotel on Saipan, stands by its position. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the administration wanted to maximize the use of public resources and believes that the Commonwealth would benefit more from a multi-million dollar investment than a public market.

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Inos postpones budget submission to May 1

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos postponed his original plan to submit on or before April 1 his \$114-million budget proposal for fiscal year 2014 to the Legislature, and wants to meet with lawmakers first to brainstorm on new revenue-generating measures before his new May 1 deadline.

Lawmakers said Wednesday that they look forward to meeting with the governor on ways to further assist vital agencies.

The law requires the governor to submit a proposed annual budget by April 1.

However, in the event of a change in administration, the new governor is required to make his or her first submission no later than five months before

the Oct. 1 beginning of the fiscal year, or May 1.

"While I am fully prepared to have a budget proposal ready to submit on April 1, I have decided to postpone it so that the [lieutenant governor] and I may meet with both houses of the Legislature to brainstorm on new revenue-generating measures to further assist the... Retirement Fund, the Common-

wealth Healthcare Corp., and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among other vital agencies of the CNMI," Inos said in a March 26 letter to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

The joint meeting will be on April 4, Thursday, at 9am in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the extended deadline will allow the governor to "adequately put together a workable budget for the Legislature's consideration."

"The governor may not exhaust the entire 30-day extension in the event the budget package, still pegged at \$114 million, is finalized and ready for transmittal at an earlier date," he said Wednesday.

House Ways and Means

Committee chair Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said he does not consider this postponement as giving a shorter period for the Legislature to review the budget submission, especially because the administration and lawmakers will deliberate jointly on income-generating bills that will impact projected revenue for the new fiscal year.

Besides, he said, his committee will immediately work on a budget bill.

Energy Office to launch residential recycling program

The CNMI Energy Division Office, in association with the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Management Office, announced the launching of the first Residential Recycling Program for residential consumers residing on Saipan to educate the community about the importance of recycling to conserve available resources and contribute to the efforts of reducing the effects of global warming.

The program is made possible through funding opportunity made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy-Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) through a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or ARRA.

The program includes the distribution of residential recycling bins for the collection of four qualified recyclable materials, participation in a school recycling incentive program and gathering and collection of data of recycled materials.

The four categories are aluminum, plastic bottles, corrugated cardboard, and residential white goods. A school of choice selected by a residential consumer will be provided the opportunity to participate and compete in the incentive program to receive, on a quarterly basis, the following listed prizes for the most tonnage of qualified recycled materials collected and recorded to assist the schools in their efforts

in educating students about the importance and need to recycle.

The following is the breakdown of prizes:

■ **Aluminum 1st place \$300**
2nd place \$200
3rd place \$100

■ **Plastic Bottles 1st place \$300**
2nd place \$200
3rd place \$100

■ **Corrugated Cardboards 1st place \$300**
2nd place \$200
3rd place \$100

■ **White Goods 1st place \$300**
2nd place \$200
3rd place \$100

To receive recycling bins, interested individuals must submit a completed and signed application with the following information:

■ A Copy of valid CNMI/US identification with photo
■ A Copy of a Utilities Billing

with name and account number to verify installation address

Applications will be made available to interested individuals beginning April 5, 2013 at the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at the Springs Plaza located on Middle Road, Saipan MP 96950 or may be downloaded and printed online at our website at www.cnmie-energy.com. The CNMI Energy Division office schedule is from Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Residential Recycling Bins will be provided to residents on a first-come first-served basis or while supplies last.

For inquiries and complete information on the terms and conditions of the program, please contact the Department of Public Works, Division of Energy-Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at 664-4487/89/90. (PR)

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SQUARE TUBE (GALVANIZED)	1 1/2" X 20'	\$10.00
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Don't abandon U.S. troops' allies

When American troops went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, they relied on local translators, drivers and guides to help them navigate incalculable risks. In exchange, the United States promised, beginning in 2006, to provide visas for those men and women whose work put them in danger. But nearly a decade later, it has yet to fulfill that commitment.

Washington must live up to its obligations. A good place to start would be for Congress and the White House to move swiftly to extend the Special Immigrant Visa program, which is due to expire in the months ahead. The program provides 6,500 new visas annually for Iraqis and Afghans to resettle in the United States. Yet it has been plagued with problems.

An unwieldy application process, coupled with enhanced security measures designed to weed out possible terrorists, has led to backlogs and long delays. As a result, only a fraction of the available visas have been issued.

The delays in processing applications aren't simply an inconvenience. Many applicants have been waiting years for approval and have had to live in hiding during that period.

Clearly the Special Immigrant Visa program isn't working as Congress intended it to. But allowing it to sunset is not the answer. Washington should renew and reform the program and not leave behind those it pledged to help.

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Supreme Court should take a stand for gay marriage

The Supreme Court's surprise ruling on health care reform last June should give judicial observers pause before drawing any conclusions from the court's arguments Tuesday on California's Proposition 8.

That said, the justices' line of questioning offers hope for supporters of gay marriage. Chief Justice John Roberts immediately questioned whether the proponents of Proposition 8 even had the legal right, or standing, to appeal San Francisco federal district court Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling that struck down the ban on same-sex marriage. It may prove to be the essential question of the case.

The Supreme Court could rule that only Gov. Jerry Brown, Attorney General Kamala Harris or other state officials have the standing to defend the ban, which they have refused to do. If the court is looking to avoid a sweeping and potentially polarizing ruling on gay marriage, it could let Walker's ruling stand and allow gay marriage to resume in California.

We would welcome such a ruling. But we would prefer a simple but broad declaration that all American gays and lesbians have an equal right to marry that is basic to constitutional principles.

Polls show that Americans are moving rapidly toward belief in marriage equality; a new CBS News poll shows that 33 percent of those who now say they support same-sex marriage used to believe otherwise. The justices have multiple options for how to rule in this case, but if they don't want to be embarrassed in the history books, they must take a stand for equality and end California's discrimination against gays and lesbians.

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Good Friday

It's a bleak Holy Week in Dong Bei. If the Siberian winds are not howling like midnight on a New England Halloween, the overcast skies hardly let a ray of sunlight get through while the shadow of Batman nooks in midday's corner.

We are not alone. London was a frozen mush early on in the week, and the Kremlin made it to the tundra without moving an inch. The freeze is expected to lash out through America's northeast from Bar Harbor to the Chesapeake Bay.

We had a respite of a sun last Sunday. Young men braved the elements and bounced the ball on 20 hoops in the courtyard. I was not yet ready to let go of mitt, muff, and muffler. The dudes dribbled on nearly bared chests in the still frozen air. My instincts paid off. Within two hours Sunday afternoon, while at the street market, what started as flakes meandering down like pillow puffs turned quickly into a snowstorm.

North of us in the Harbin Winter Festival, the ice sculptures are still intact and its tourist trade is doing brisk business as the "Moscow of the East" lives off intricate remnants of its Byzantine past, its central commercial district with its cobblestones reminiscent of horse drawn carriages of bygone days, converted into pedestrian traffic, leaving an Old World feel to the revelers of overflowing malt brew on brightly lit ice lanterns.

The solemnity of the Christian Holy Week is, however, hardly evident in post-1949 China of secular humanism, in spite of the cultural resurgence of its three major philosophies—Confucianism (*ru*), Buddhism (*shi*), and Taoism (*dao*). Artifacts and sacred sites have taken in of late considerable market values. The Chinese' vaulted aptitude for mathematics has *Yuan* coloration.

Today, ours is a quietude of the soul as years of conditioning in Christian dramaturgy revives images of Hosanna's palm fronds to early sunrise religious services singing hymns of joy on the triumph of the empty tomb. Protestants, inured to the automatic happy ending of Hollywood celluloid in the era of Ike, tend to skip the high point of this week, paradoxically titled "Good Friday."

Penitent souls and flagellating bodies trek to the top of Mt. Tapuchao this day, as some barren field in Guagua, Pampanga grossly reenact the Roman crucifixion so vividly portrayed in Mel Gibson's overwrought movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, turned into a community spectacle in Bavaria's Oberammergau as it relives every decade since the 1600s the stations of the cross.

In Christian dramaturgy, the week's high point is the innocent Jesus willfully allowing the sword and the lance to let him hang, "for the sins of the many" (in the guilt-ridden language of Paul). The Roman Catholic Church drapes its altar black at 3pm on Friday, and calls the day "Good." Rational minds of the Reformation raise an eyebrow having forsaken the practice of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son as barbaric, with cynics seeing the practice no different from fathers sending their sons to war. Still, the modern

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



world has also condemned the virtue of martyrdom as a mere justification of the Empire oppressing the outcast, the rebel, and the marginalized.

But the English "Good," of the same etymology as the word "G-O-D," derivative of the Teuton's "Gott," is used in the King James translation of the Biblical YHWH, (literally means self-evident) the highest good, *summum bonum* of Aquinas and Kant.

Cut to the chase. Good Friday is an affirmation that life is good just the way it is, woof, warts and all. In today's language, it is a mishmash of cause, chance, and choice. The religious seeks cause in a supreme deity. The dice-thrower lights incense for good fortune, fate, and destiny. The democratized human looks at the power of choice. The diversity and the many combinations of the three mark the current state of our humanity.

Europe, preoccupied with time, sought clarity in one's relationship to yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It came up with yesterday as done, irretrievable and finished. It is "forgiven." Tomorrow is open. One needs only to decide. Today is in the pulse of "amazing grace," unconditionally accepted. Its totality can be lifted high, like the *ostia* and the *vino*, and celebrated. The Christian's common meal of the Upper Room invokes: "this is my body...this is my blood, that is given for you." It constitutes the Christian essence of what has since become the Eucharist.

East Asia is not as preoccupied with time as it is with space. The *taiji* of ancient China has the *yin-yang* in the middle surrounded by eight trigrams covering all points of the compass. The important words are geographical in meaning, thus, *bei* = north and *jing* = city, gives us Beijing. But there is a fifth cardinal point to the familiar east, west, north, and south designation. The fifth direction is the *wu fang*, the center. It is no accident that Chinese call themselves *Zhongguoren*, the people of the middle realm!

Silence at the tranquil center is the Good Friday of East Asian spirituality. The dynamic stillness in the middle of the *taiji* is the loci of profound humanity since discovered in the interfaith exchange of the East and the West. The blackout of Christendom's Good Friday echoes in the sounds of silence of meditation and contemplation.

My humanness this day is bowed.

Selling, buying, and decisions

If you're selling tourism on Saipan, or for that matter selling anything anywhere, one of your most important decisions is just who you should actually be selling to.

That sounds a little wacky, which is what Fridays are for, so let's take a look at this.

When I was a teenager I sold men's dress shirts in a department store. Those were old-school times in an old-school place, and the ones who did the shopping and buying were typically the wives. This caused me to recognize that the buyer of the product (the wife in this case), and the consumer of the product (the husband in this case), don't have to be the same person.

And, adding another element to the gig, I reckoned that the wives were typically not just the buyers, but were also the decision makers.

I don't know if that's textbook marketing or not, but I'm always trying to reckon the distinction between the buyer, the decision maker, and the consumer. And by "consumer" I mean the actual person who consumes the product I don't know how this would play out for pet food, come to think of it, so let's not think of it.

Usually, of course, all these roles are filled by the same person. If I want to eat a candy bar, I pick one out at the check out counter (decision maker), I buy it (buyer), and I stuff it into my grubby face (consumer).

If you're ever bored, then just look around you, find a product, and ask yourself how these three roles might sort themselves out in the buying process.

Anti-aging techniques

Many people, especially women, want to look younger. That is because a younger person is considered to be more desirable than someone who looks old. Although the aging process cannot quite be reversed, there are options that can restore a more youthful you, and an appearance of radiant vitality.

I began researching anti-aging protocols in 1986, and a great deal of progress has been made since then. Because the field of anti-aging is vast, I can only share a small amount of information here.

However, if you decide to embark on an anti-aging program, you will have to be dedicated. You will be changing your eating habits, your lifestyle habits, and will be taking supplements every day. If you are able to stick with the program, then a healthier and more youthful you will emerge. I have done this for a long time. It is second nature to me, and it works.

What you will need

You will need space in a kitchen cupboard to keep all of your nutrients. Some of them are capsules or tablets, but others are powders that have to be mixed in water.

You will also need an electric blender. A cocktail shaker works, but not as well. You will be drinking an anti-aging beverage every day, so a blender is best.

Dietary changes

The food and drink you consume every day has a definite impact on your ability to remain youthful. Therefore eat only fresh food: vegetables (either raw or lightly steamed), whole grains (brown rice, not white), lean chicken, fish, garlic, onions, herbs, eggs, seafood, nuts, and fruit. Do not eat any processed food. Drink only water or tea. Green tea has the most health benefits. Drink 2-3 cups per day.

It is also recommended that you take a good multi-vitamin at breakfast. Most of the one-a-day varieties are no good, as the nutrient doses are far too low to be of any benefit. There are some excellent vitamin stores on the Internet; one is in South Dakota, another is in Maine. They ship Priority Mail and are worth finding. There is also an excellent website, Life Extension, which has many informative articles (lef.org). Worth a visit!

What causes aging?

People age primarily because of damage caused by free radicals. A free radical is a stray oxygen atom, and it can cause damage to skin and other organs of your body through oxidation. If you see a face with a lot of wrinkles, they are usually caused by free radical damage. Over time, this can be reversed by taking antioxidants, also known as "free radical scavengers," and other anti-aging compounds.

Here is a list of the best antioxidants, from major vitamin suppliers. They are available online and are extremely effective.

The "master antioxidant" in the human body is Glutathione. It is in every cell, but, as we age, our body produces less of it. That is why it is important to supplement with this important nutrient (100mg per day).

The next best anti-oxidants are Astaxanthin, Coenzyme Q-10 (Ubiquinol), Melatonin (often used as a sleep aid), Vitamins C and E. There are others, but these five should be in your kitchen cabinet and taken daily. Whether you buy capsules or powder,

Here's one: kids' breakfast cereals. These are advertised to people who typically can't even buy them: kids. They've got no income. They don't usually go to the grocery store. And yet advertisers shovel vast amounts of money into buying Saturday morning ads during cartoon time.

Let me repeat that: The advertisers are paying to reach a segment that has (essentially) no money.

Hey, that's an amply wacky situation, but we all know why it happens. The kids don't have wallets, but they do have parents. So, in this situation, I'd call the kid the decision maker and the consumer, and whichever parent buys the stuff is, of course, the buyer.

In this case, and in a lot of others, the ads are targeted to the decision maker.

I wanted to get even wackier and find a situation where the decision maker, the buyer, and the consumer are three different people. Here's one that comes to mind: Never mind what cereal a kid has for breakfast, one day he gets sick, so Mom takes him to the doctor so she can get some medicine.

In a typical scenario, let's say the doctor makes the decision about what prescription medicine is best. The parent is the buyer. The kid is the actual consumer of the product. So we've got three different elements of the process, done by three different people, and all for one transaction.

We could get even wackier and consider that the actual payer (as opposed to the buyer) might be an insurance company, but that's too much to heap on our plate today.

Anyway, back to the case at hand, if you were marketing pre-

scription medicine, who would you focus your efforts on? the dosage information will be on the label. Do not overdo it; follow the directions.

Anti-aging supplements

It is possible to reverse the effects of aging by taking certain nutritional supplements. (This is in addition to taking antioxidants).

The No. 1 anti-aging supplement is L-Carnosine. It is a di-peptide and can prevent glycation. Glycation has been associated with cardiovascular disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, DNA damage, and premature aging.

L-Carnosine (500mg per day) should be taken on an empty stomach, along with Benfotiamine (100mg) and Acetyl-L-carnitine (500mg). If you are able to get the powders and mix them in a blender, they will absorb faster. However, they taste terrible. To improve the flavor, add 1,000mg Malic Acid and a squirt of Stevia-flavored drops. Then it tastes just fine.

The next best anti-aging protocol is "hGH releasers." hGH stands for Human Growth Hormone, and there are many different formulas available. They work by stimulating the pituitary gland to secrete more growth hormone into the bloodstream. The anti-aging benefits are numerous: better skin tone and firmness, better muscle tone, greater endurance, the ability to lose fat more readily, and a more youthful appearance.

Although various amino-acid formulations are preferred by athletes, mixing a lot of nutrients in a blender can be a chore. Therefore, one of the most convenient hGH-releasing formulas was developed by Dr. Vincent Giampapa, and is extremely effective. You dissolve one packet in water and drink it at bedtime. The regimen is: three months on, one month off. Repeat.

The next best anti-aging supplement is an herb, Astragalus. This has significant age-reversing properties, and boosts the immune system, and helps to repair damage to DNA (a significant anti-aging benefit). It is widely available on the Internet and a standard daily dose is 500mg.

Another anti-aging nutrient is Resveratrol. This is a compound derived from the skins of red grapes, and there are many health benefits. It is anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, helps to prevent cancer (tumor formation) and has life-extending properties. *60 Minutes* did a fascinating segment on resveratrol, and it may be seen on YouTube. The standard dosage of resveratrol is 500mg per day, taken with food.

You can prepare a youth cocktail by combining Carnosine, Benfotiamine, Acetyl-L-Carnitine, Astragalus, and Resveratrol, along with a little powdered vitamin C in a blender. Add Malic Acid and "Sweet Drops" to improve its flavor. If you drink this every day on an empty stomach, and take the hGH drink at bedtime, you will be on your way to a younger you.

Other supplements for a long life

Omega 3's have wonderful health benefits, but all fish oil supplements contain mercury, which is toxic. The best oil to take is krill oil. Of all the edible oils, krill is far superior to fish, flax, evening primrose, and olive oil. You can find krill oil on eBay, and at discount prices. Most vitamin websites also have krill oil, but they often charge a lot.

Organic coconut oil is also good for you. Not only does taking 1-2 tablespoons per day contribute to your health, it is excellent for

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



scription medicine, who would you focus your efforts on?

According to a recent Pew Charitable Trusts study, of the \$29 billion spent on drug promotion, \$25 billion of that was spent marketing to doctors, with the remaining \$4 billion spent on consumers.

So I guess my wacky thought experiment wasn't so wacky after all: The decision maker is obviously the one to target here.

As always, people have various opinions on the propriety of business activities, including marketing, but I'm not trying to stir up that stuff. I'm just a numbers guy.

And, as such, I'm merely pointing out that optimally marketing a product isn't always as simple as it looks. There's more to marketing than the merely zero-dimensional "consumer" who is so glibly mentioned.

Food for thought, eh? So the question all over the world, including Saipan, is who we really want to reach when we're selling something. More to the point, maybe we should ask why we're trying to reach them.

By RUSS MASON, M.S.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, Alternative & Complementary Therapies. His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.



use on your face (just a little). It is the best oil to cook with also, and does not break down when exposed to high heat.

Green powders and juices. Chlorella and Spirulina are nutritional powerhouses. In addition to containing a broad spectrum of nutrients, they also contain chlorophyll, which has detoxification properties. The chlorophyll will bind to toxins, such as heavy metals, and carry them out of your body.

I realize I have provided a lot of information here, so you may want to save this article for future reference. In the meantime, if you are serious about pursuing an anti-aging regimen, do some research on your own. There are hundreds of YouTube videos (Dr. Mercola, for example) that are wonderfully informative. Google and Wikipedia are also excellent resources for learning about various nutrients.

Last, if you are in your 30's, 40's, 50's or older, and are concerned about you vanishing youth, the anti-aging protocols mentioned above can surely help to turn back the clock.

If you would like to know where I buy my supplements, send a message on Facebook (Russ Mason) and I will tell you.

Good luck!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public statement

Due to the unfortunate rumors circulating about the passing of Maryann Cabael (Ann Cabael) of Natasha Service Center on Beach Road Oleai, we would like to publicly announce our deepest thanks to all of our good friends and neighbors for their overwhelming love and concern.

Please be aware that Maryann Cabael remains in good health and has not been admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for any related treatment concerning any health condition, and accept our sincere gratitude for all your inquiries.








Al Cabael
Maryann Cabael
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

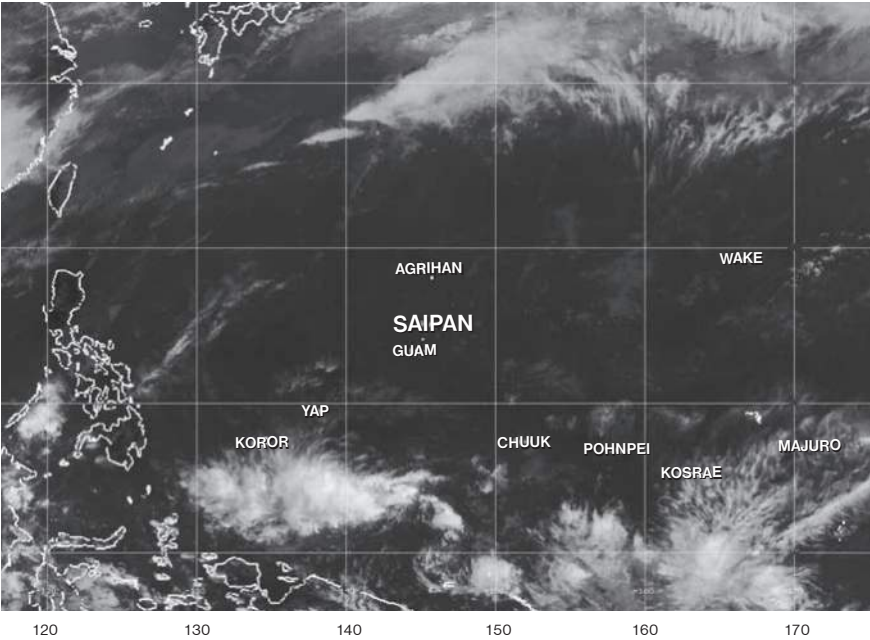
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▼36
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼69
London	Showers	▲41 ▼27
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Miami	Sunny	▲74 ▼55
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼36
Osaka	Cloudy	▲62 ▼43
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼35
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼42
Rome	Showers	▲62 ▼54
Salem	Showers	▲63 ▼44
San Francisco	Showers	▲63 ▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲51 ▼33
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 3N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Koror and Yap at 3N137E to end at EQ151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and circulation between 2N and 6N from 131E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 3N154E to 2N168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:17 PM	7:18 AM
Saturday	9:18 PM	8:09 AM
Sunday	10:19 PM	9:03 AM
Monday	11:19 PM	10:00 AM
Tuesday		11:00 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6 SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Summit uses peer-to-peer strategy to combat underage drinking

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services hosted on Tuesday and Wednesday the Enforcing Underage Drinking Law 2013 Youth Summit, in line with the agency's peer-to-peer program in addressing this big problem among youth.

Now on its third year, the summit, held at Saipan World Resort, gathered over a hundred teenagers from different public schools, thanks to the efforts not only of DYS but also Marianas High School where the peer-to-peer program was initiated.

Jacky Mendiola of DYS explained in an interview on the last day of the summit that the peer-to-peer strategy involves supporting the youth in reaching out to their peers on ways to deal with issues that impact their age group, including underage drinking.

Mendiola revealed that underage drinking is the primary offense committed by the youth in the Commonwealth.

"It's not only underage drinking that's a problem but it is usually accompanied by other offenses like disturbing the peace. So the good thing about having the peer-to-peer summit is they all experience the same issues and they can think together on how they can solve the problem," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mendiola, along with summit organizers Jen Tanaka and Sharma Iginoif, expressed hope that events such as the summit would help address this perennial concern among the youth.

She said the summit provided information on the problem as well as coping skills and other mechanisms that young members of the community can use when talking to their peers

about alcohol consumption and its detrimental effects.

Mendiola said that for the summit and the peer-to-peer program, DYS collaborated with MHS where they got a group of students who serve in the youth advisory panel and served as main facilitators for the summit.

Some 25 of these young facilitators were sent to Guam for a youth-for-youth summit last year and have come back to share what they experienced.

This year's EUDL 2013 Youth Summit has the theme "20 and Below, Be Your Hero, and Just Say No." The summit is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Mendiola said several island leaders graced the event, including Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

She noted that since the implementation of the peer-to-peer strategy, more and more students have expressed interest in the DYS program. She said that the high turnout of the two-day summit, which fell on spring break, demonstrates the youth's increased interest and participation in the issue.

"The feedbacks we've received have been positive because this peer-to-peer summit is what they want and it creates opportunities for them to succeed. I wish we had more funding to extend the program to other schools besides MHS, including Tinian and Rota. Hopefully, we'll get there," said Mendiola.

Donavon Flores, 16, and Maria Theresa Dizon, 15, said they both have friends who drink. They said that through the sum-



Participants of the enforcing Underage Drinking Laws 2013 Youth Summit break out in smaller groups for focus-group discussions on Wednesday at Saipan World Resort.

mit, they get insights on how they can help their friends and let them know that there are options and that there will always be someone who can help them.

DYS director Laura Ogu-moro said in a separate interview that the summit provided the students an opportunity to get together and discuss underage drinking and other issues that affect them.

"It's more effective that way, to have the youth talk to their peers because they themselves know what's going on. They hear it, they see it, they experience it, so they can talk about it. DYS will continue to support activities like this to empower our youth and help them become better," added Ogu-moro.

Easter is a time to rejoice, be thankful, be assured that
all is forgiven so life extends beyond the soil of earth.

— Byron Pulsifer



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Music & Bar Zebra Saipan grand opening tonight

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new bar is set
to have its
grand open-
ing tonight
at Saipan's
bar district
in Garapan.



Music & Bar Zebra Saipan,
located between Anies Imuza
and Guess stores in Paseo de
Marianas, will be open to pa-
trons Monday to Sunday from
8pm to 2am. Cash and major
credit cards are accepted.

Music & Bar Zebra Saipan is lo-
cated between Anies Imuza and
Guess stores in Paseo de Mari-
anas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Owner Rei Yamagishi of
WTT-USA, LLC said the vi-
sion behind Music & Bar Zebra
Saipan is to offer an innovative
venue where guests can take it
easy, get a drink, and enjoy the
company of friends.

"It's the only one of its kind
on Saipan. We don't have any
real lounge here so we're really
excited about it," Yamagishi
told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said they first opened
Music & Bar Zebra in Japan a
couple months ago and decided
to bring the same design and
ambience to the island.

Music & Bar Zebra Saipan
had its soft opening two weeks
ago and the reception has been
"pretty good," making it ready
for tonight's official launch-
ing, said Yamagishi, whose
company is also behind a
nearby outdoor drinking spot,
Ocean's Bar.

The place has several tables
and bar stools, with a lot of
standing area that can accom-
modate up to 40 people.

Yamagishi said the Music
& Bar Zebra Saipan has a no-
smoking policy and encourages
a "light dress code" where peo-
ple can put on their best clothes
or be "casually nice" without
feeling overdressed.

There will be all kinds of liba-
tions—beers, cocktails, wines,
and hard liquor—served with
complimentary nibbles while
an in-house DJ will be playing
house, trance, and other hype
music.

For its grand opening, Mu-
sic & Bar Zebra Saipan has
daily drink specials: GMF
shots and Heineken on Money
Mondays; Angel Wings and
Bud/Miller Light on Island
Tuesdays; red wine and Bud-
weiser on Passion Wednes-
days; tequila and Corona on
Tequila Thursdays; all bottles
on special on Fortune 500 Fri-
days; and rum, vodka, and gin
on Pink Lady Saturday.

With its fine location on the
tourist hub, Music & Bar Ze-
bra Saipan offers a full-package
VIP bottle service featuring
lounge seating for up to five
persons who enjoy top brand li-
quors with all kinds of mixes as
well as snacks.

Yamagishi noted that island
residents will get local rates. He
also emphasized that service is
of utmost priority.

"We will do our best to
provide everyone a speedy
service," he said, adding that
Music & Bar Zebra Saipan is
now hiring locals, mostly part-
timers.

The place is also open for
exclusive parties for those who
want an intimate setting to have
fun with associates or pals.

"We invite everyone to check
out Music & Bar Zebra Saipan
where you are guaranteed to
have a good time," said Yam-
agishi.

For reservations or more in-
formation, call 233-2235 or
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Saipan high schools are also 'Schools for Environmental Change'



MINA staff and chairman Frankie Elliptical, front center, pose with "Schools for Environmental Change" participating students and teachers after their CAP presentations and receiving their award certificates. Not all participants are in the photo.

MINA

This past month, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance hosted climate change workshops for teachers and students from various high schools on Saipan as part of MINA's "Schools for Environmental Change" program.

Because climate change has become a growing concern worldwide, MINA decided to increase awareness in the CNMI through educational workshops with presentations from environmental experts on island.

Participants included students and teachers from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel High School, Northern Marianas Academy, and AmeriCorps.

The presenters at the workshops included Robbie Greene of Coastal Resources Management; Greg Moretti of the Pacific

Marine Resources Institute; Kaitlin Mattos of the Division of Environmental Quality; Andre Kozij of Northern Marianas Academy; John Furey, long-time environmental educator; and Wayne Andrew, former Palau delegate and environmental activist.

Lectures and activities included the causes of climate change, its effects on land and sea, and what the community can do about it.

"I liked the presenters," one student said. "They provided us with a lot of good information that many of us were not aware of."

In addition to the workshops, participants were taken on a field trip to Managaha to learn about beach erosion and how to monitor coral bleaching

through "Coral Watch," a methodology used to assess the extent of bleaching.

A student praised the trip. "I loved everything about the field trip. All the activities were great!"

One of the most important components of MINA's "Schools for Environmental Change" was the development of Conservation Action Plans, or CAPs. These CAPs were developed by the students to help their respective schools ameliorate the causes of climate

change or help their school adapt to the effects of climate change. Students presented their CAPs on Saturday, March 23, at the American Memorial Park Auditorium.

"The students came up with great Conservation Action Plans that I think will really help their school move in a positive direction toward changing their views about the environment and climate change," said Rica Dela Cruz, one of MINA's project managers. "It's these smaller initiatives that can really create

big changes. I'm so proud of these students."

The CAPs of the schools included planting more trees on campus, installing more recycling bins, switching classrooms and school offices to energy-saving LED light bulbs, controlling paper usage, and increasing student body general awareness of climate change through surveys and climate change knowledge quizzes. In order to facilitate implementation of their plans on campus, the participating schools will re-

ceive \$300 from MINA to buy the necessary supplies.

"I'm very happy with the CAPs that will be implemented in the participating schools," said Sam Sablan, MINA's executive director. "They have shown that they really are 'Schools for Environmental Change'."

To learn more about this annual school program or to become a volunteer, visit MINA's website www.minapacific.org or check out their Facebook page. (MINA)

Brian Yong Min appointed to US Air Force Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Brian Yong Min has been appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, according to Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) yesterday.

Min was nominated by Bordallo, and competed with nominees nationwide for admission into the Air Force Academy. Min also was previously appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and is the third member of Father Duenas Memorial School's Senior Class of 2013 to be appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy this year, and the fourth student from Guam to be appointed to enter the U.S. Air Force Academy's Class of 2017.

Min is the son of Thomas K. Min and Won Sun P. Min of Tamuning. He currently has a 4.0 grade point average, and is ranked first in his class. He will graduate from Father Due-

nas Memorial School on May 8, 2013. Yong Min is a commanding officer in the National Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and a team commander in the Unarmed Drill Team. He has impressive standardized

testing scores, earning a perfect score in math. He is the captain of the biathlon team and a member of the track and field and golf teams.

"Brian's appointment to both the Naval and Air Force military academies is a reflection of his work ethic and dedication," said Bordallo. "I am proud of all our students appointed to the military academies. This is the fourth appointment of a student from Guam to the U.S. Air Force Academy for the class of 2017, and I congratulate Brian and his parents on his appointment. I am confident that he will continue to grow his academic and leadership potential to serve as an officer in our U.S. military." (PR)



Yong Min

*Easter is the demonstration
of God that life is essentially
spiritual and timeless.*

—Charles M. Crowe

Happy Easter!

From the management and staff of

Saipan Tribune



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COUNSELORS' CONFERENCE

Counselors from the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Mount Carmel School along with other non-profit and government representatives take time to pose for a group photo during the recently held Counselors' Conference organized by the College Access Challenge Grant Program at the Northern Marianas College. The two-day conference, held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, focused on topics that included depression and suicide awareness, substance abuse prevention education, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, working with children of sexual abuse, and other topics.

Camacho increases rape suspect's bail to \$200K cash

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joaquin Reyes Lizama, a 65-year-old man who was arrested last month for allegedly raping a woman in front of her child, had asked that his \$50,000 cash bail be modified but Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.

Camacho increased it instead to \$200,000 cash yesterday.

Camacho increased Lizama's bail after learning that the suspect was sentenced in 1977 to 60 years for robbing and raping a woman at gunpoint. Lizama spent only eight years in prison after being granted parole.

"The defendant's old convic-

tions on serious criminal cases, including rape, have come to light. This goes to his propensity for violence," Camacho said.

The judge said he is not convinced that Lizama's proposed third-party custodian—his sister—can control Lizama or call the Department of Public Safety if he violates any of the

conditions.

Camacho said the victim, Lizama, and the proposed third-party custodian are all closely related. Lizama's release may result in him or other family members being pressured or convinced to contact the victim, the judge added.

Camacho also noted that the prosecution told him that they have a witness that places Lizama at the crime scene and a tape recording of the defendant admitting to having sex with the victim.

The original bail set in the

arrest warrant for Lizama was \$100,000 cash, but Associate Judge David A. Wiseman later reduced it to \$50,000 cash.

At yesterday's hearing, Lizama, through assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, asked the court to modify the \$50,000 cash bail for property bond and to allow Lizama's release to his sister.

Assistant attorney general James B. McAllister opposed this, saying Lizama was previously convicted of three counts of robbery, rape, burglary, assault with a dangerous

weapon, and illegal possession of a firearm.

McAllister said that Lizama's criminal history and the new charges show that he has not been rehabilitated after being convicted of several heinous crimes and receiving a substantial jail term.

"Based on the severity of the crimes, the repeated offenses, and defendant's desire to continue contacting the victim, defendant is a serious threat and danger to the victim and the community," the prosecutor said.

release by not cooperating with law enforcers.

The Superior Court granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to revoke the release of defendant Nicholas Muña from custody.

The court also granted the OAG's request to unseal the case. Muña, 63, also known as Tata, was taken to court Tuesday afternoon. Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a \$2,500 cash bail plus \$22,500 in unsecured bond.

Department of Public Safety Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Dennis Reyes stated that they arrested Muña on Jan. 21, 2013, after their confidential source managed to buy \$100 worth of "ice" from him in Chalan Piao.

Reyes said that after the arrest, Muña agreed to assist law enforcers as a confidential informant, provided that police would allow his release without cash bail subject to certain conditions and restrictions.

Reyes said the court then allowed the agreement and sealed the case.

Reyes said, however, that Muña has not cooperated with them in ongoing investigations. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Court unseals case of 63-year-old suspected 'ice' trafficker

A suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" who was released on own recognizance

was re-arrested early this week after he allegedly failed to comply with the conditions of his

PUBLIC NOTICE

Beginning April 1, 2013, IT&E wireless subscribers who call 411 for Directory Assistance will be charged \$0.75 per listing.

The CNMI Phone Book is available for free on your computer or smartphone at www.cnmiphonebook.com or at m.cnmiphonebook.com on your data capable handset.

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NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT of Public Auction under Power of Sale in Deed of Trust



In accordance with the provisions of 2 CMC §4626 of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Deed of Trust Act, 2 CMC §4611, et seq., Trustee Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, hereby gives Notice that the Public Sale of the real property described as **Lot No. 128 D 51**, and more particularly described below, has been postponed until **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

As required by 2 CMC §4626, at the public sale on Friday, December 10, 2012 and again at the initial postponement on February 8, 2013, the Trustee made a public declaration of this postponement, and continued the public sale to a new date of **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

Accordingly, pursuant to 2 CMC §4622(b)(2) and 2 CMC §4626, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee Northern Marianas Housing Corporation will be **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust received from Francisco L. Kaipat, sell the following described real property:

Lot No. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00, the original of which was recorded 07 Dec 1999 as Document No. 99-2896 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan

at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be due within seventy-two (72) hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within seventy-two (72) hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned real property will automatically revert to NMHC, as Trustee. The real property shall be sold **"AS IS"** without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed, or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to cancel or postpone the date, time, and place of sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2013.

/S/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Lot No.: 128 D 51
Area: 620 m²
Gross Living Area: 1,201 Ft²
Location: Adilanto Loop, Sugar King Estates, Saipan
3 BR, 2 Bath
Minimum Bid: \$52,000.00
Bid Date: April 2, 2013
Bid Time: 10:00 a.m.
Bid Place: NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan



Business

Judge approves American-US Airways merger

NEW YORK (AP)—American Airlines won bankruptcy court approval Wednesday to combine with US Airways and form the world's biggest airline.

"The merger is an excellent result. I don't think anybody disputes that," Judge Sean H. Lane said before issuing his decision.

But the judge declined to sign off on a proposed \$20 million severance package for Tom Horton, currently the CEO of American's parent AMR Corp.

The approval is an important milestone for American, which filed for Chapter 11 in November 2011 after having long resisted using the bankruptcy pro-



American Airlines and US Airways jets prepare for flight at gate at the Philadelphia International Airport, in this Feb. 14, 2013 file photo taken in Philadelphia.

cess to cut labor and other costs. The merger still needs approval from Department of Justice anti-trust regulators and US Airways shareholders. It is expected to close by the fall.

The combined airline will have 6,700 daily flights and annual revenue of roughly \$40 billion. The new American Airlines will fly slightly more passengers than United, the current No. 1. It will be run by Doug Parker, the CEO of US Airways Group Inc., who began pursuing a merger shortly after American entered bankruptcy protection.

The U.S. trustee, a federal bankruptcy watchdog, had ob-

jected to the severance package for Horton. While he didn't question the amount, Lane agreed that the timing of it seemed to violate prohibitions in the bankruptcy law.

"Approving it today is just not appropriate," Lane said. The judge plans to issue a written decision at a later date detailing his reasoning.

Horton has spent nearly his entire career at American, becoming CEO when the company filed for bankruptcy. Horton will cede the CEO position to Parker when the deal closes, and has agreed to leave the company's board within a year of the closing date.

In 2011, Horton was paid a

salary of \$618,135. He also got stock awards and options that were valued that year at nearly \$2.7 million, but the company argued those could be nearly worthless after the bankruptcy reorganization. Figures for 2012 aren't yet available.

The proposed severance package includes \$19.9 million in cash and stock as well as a lifetime of free first-class tickets on American for Horton and his wife.

Horton could still receive the payout. American's lawyers offered a possible solution during the hearing: American and US Airways would amend their merger agreement to say that Horton's severance would be subject to ratification of the board of directors of the new airline, after the merger closes.

Cyprus: Cash withdrawals capped at 300 euros

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Banks in Cyprus are to open for the first time in more than a week on Thursday, operating for six hours from noon (10:00 GMT), but restrictions will be in place on financial transactions to prevent people from draining their accounts.

Among the capital controls, cash withdrawals will be limited to 300 euros (\$383) per person each day. No checks will be cashed, although people will be able to deposit them in their accounts, according to a ministerial decree that was released late

Thursday.

The controls will be in place for four days.

Cyprus's banks were closed on March 16 as politicians scrambled to come up with a plan to raise 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) so the country would qualify for 10 billion euros (\$12.9 billion) in much-needed bailout loans for its collapsed banking sector. The deal was finally reached in Brussels early Monday, and imposes severe losses on deposits of over 100,000 euros in the country's two largest banks,

Laiki and Bank of Cyprus.

Since Monday's deal, Cypriot authorities have been rushing to introduce measures to prevent a rush of euros out of the country's banks when they do reopen.

Other capital controls include a cap of 5,000 euros on transactions with other countries, provided the customer presents supporting documents. Payments above that amount will need special approval.

Travelers leaving the country won't be able to take with them anything over 1,000 euros in

cash—as well as the equivalent sum in foreign currency.

Tuition fees and living expenses of up to 5,000 euros for three months will be permitted for overseas students, but documentation must be provided proving the student's relationship to the dispatcher.

Also investors will also not be able to terminate fixed-term deposit accounts before they mature unless the funds are to be used for the repayment of a loan in the same bank, the decree says.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BOJ chief says Japan economy on the mend

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy has stopped weakening and should show signs of recovery by midyear, the newly appointed central bank governor said Thursday, as weaker-than-expected retail sales for February underscored the challenge he faces in restoring consumer confidence. "The bank currently assesses that the economy has stopped weakening," Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda told lawmakers in presenting the bank's semiannual report. But he said there was still "a high degree of uncertainty" about the economy because of the crisis in Europe, the tenuous state of the U.S. recovery and often testy relations with China.

Oil pulls back from 5-week high; pump price drops

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of oil rose near the end of trading Wednesday, and has now gone up more than \$4 in less than a week. Benchmark oil for May delivery gained 24 cents to close at a five-week high of \$96.68 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil has gained \$4.13, or 4.4 percent, in the last four sessions. The increase hasn't yet shown up at the gas pump. The average price for a gallon of gas fell a penny to \$3.65 a gallon. It's down 5 cents over the past week, and is 25 cents lower than at this time last year.

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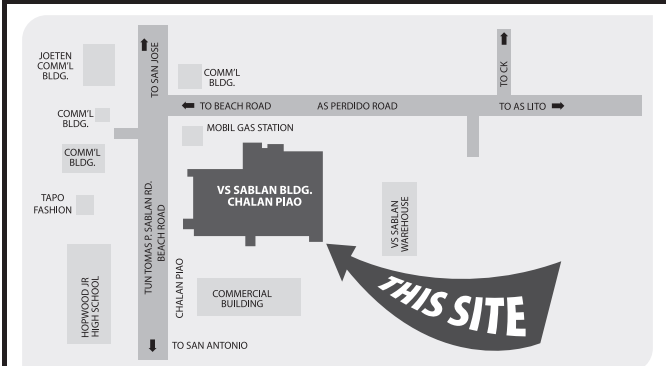
*Online application form available April 5th

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Nation

Gay marriage at high court: How a case can fizzle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Late in the oral argument over same-sex marriage in California, Justice Anthony Kennedy made a startling comment, given the months of buildup and mountain of legal briefs that have descended on the justices.

"You might address why you think we should take and decide this case," Kennedy said to lawyer Charles Cooper, representing opponents of same-sex marriage.

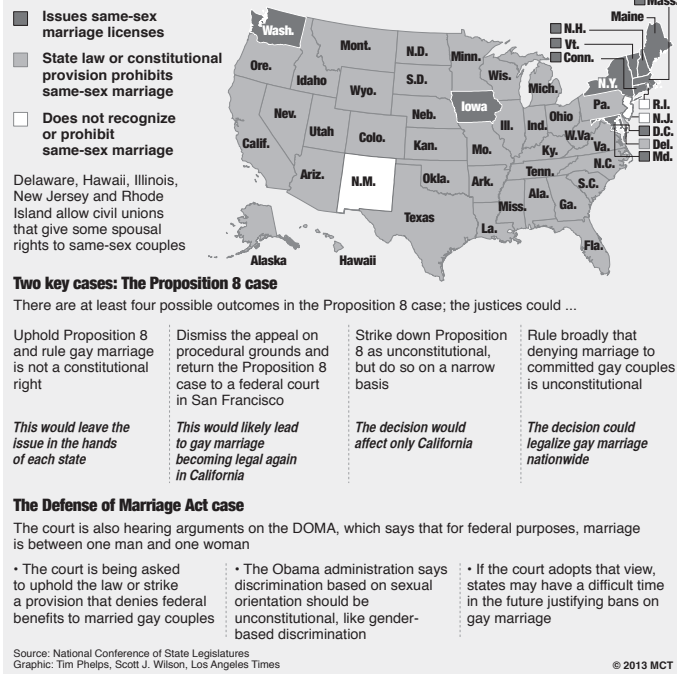
One might have thought the court had already crossed that bridge.

But now the justices were openly discussing essentially walking away from the case over California's Proposition 8, a voter-approved ban on gay marriage, without deciding anything at all about such unions.

Indeed, this case offers a rare glimpse at the court's opaque internal workings, in which justices make cold political cal-

Same-sex marriage, state by state

The Supreme Court has heard arguments on the constitutionality of Proposition 8, California's voter initiative limiting marriage to a man and a woman. Shown here is the status of same-sex marriage in the U.S.:



culations about what to do and Kennedy's often-decisive vote can never be far from his colleagues' minds.

The court on Wednesday concluded two days of arguments involving gay marriage. In the second case, a constitutional challenge to a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, a majority of the court appeared likely to rule that legally married gay couples should be able to receive a range of benefits that the law currently reserves for straight married couples.

The decision to hear the DOMA case was easy. The Supreme Court almost always has the final word when lower courts strike down a federal law, as they did in this case.

Proposition 8's route to the Supreme Court was not as obvious. The appeals court ruling under review by the justices seems to have been written to discourage

the high court from ever taking up the case because it applies only to California and limited a much broader opinion that had emerged earlier from the trial court.

And yet in December, the court decided it would hear the case. It takes a majority of five to decide a case a particular way, but just four justices can vote to add a case to the calendar. And the court does not disclose how the justices vote at this stage.

It seems apparent after the argument, though, that it was the conservative justices who opted to hear Proposition 8. It also seems that one factor in their decision was that this could be their last, best opportunity to slow the nation's march toward recognition of gay marriage at a time when only nine states and the District of Columbia allow gays and lesbians to marry—despite a rapid swing in public opinion in favor of gay marriage.

Gun control backers struggle to win some Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—It would seem a lobbyist's dream: rounding up votes for a proposal backed by more than 8 in 10 people in polls. Yet, gun control supporters are struggling to win over moderate Democrats in their drive to push expanded background checks for firearms purchasers through the Senate next month.

Backed by a \$12 million TV advertising campaign financed by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, gun control groups scheduled rallies around the country Thursday aimed at pressuring senators to back the effort. President Barack Obama was meeting at the White House with gun violence victims.

Moderate Senate Democrats like Mark Pryor of Arkansas and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota are shunning Bloomberg as a meddling outsider while stressing their allegiance to their own voters' views and to gun rights. While saying they're keeping an open mind and support keeping guns from criminals and people with mental disorders, many Democrats are avoiding specific commitments they might regret later.

Senators tour border, say immigration bill near

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP)—A bipartisan group of senators crafting a sweeping immigration bill vowed Wednesday that they would be ready to unveil it when Congress reconvenes in less than two weeks after getting a first-hand look at a crucial component of their legislation: security along

the U.S.-Mexico border.

The four senators—Republicans John McCain and Jeff Flake of Arizona and Democrats Chuck Schumer of New York and Michael Bennet of Colorado—are members of the so-called Gang of Eight, which is close to finalizing a bill aimed at securing the border

and putting 11 million illegal immigrants on a path to citizenship.

The lawmakers' reassurance that their work would be complete by the week of April 8 came after a public feud erupted between the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO over a low-skilled worker provision in the bill—a

spat that remained alive Friday as Congress began a two-week recess. But Flake noted Wednesday that negotiations over the worker program had resumed; an AFL-CIO negotiator also confirmed the talks were back on.

During the tour, the senators saw border agents apprehend a

woman who had climbed an 18-foot-tall bollard fence.

"You can read and you can study and you can talk but until you see things it doesn't become reality," said Schumer, who toured the border for the first time. "I'll be able to explain this to my colleagues. Many of my colleagues say, 'Why do we need to do anything more on the border?' and we do. We should do more."



Start Time: 6:00am Location: 4-H building-Susupe

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
 Acting Executive Director

Asia

North Korea cuts last military hotline with South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Raising tensions with South Korea yet again, North Korea said it cut the last military hotline with Seoul because there was no need for communications between the countries in a situation “where a war may break out at any moment.”

The hotline had provided a channel of communications between the militaries of North Korea and South Korea, which do not have diplomatic relations. The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war, divided by a heavily guarded border and with both governments prohibiting direct contact with citizens on the other side.

However, for nearly a decade, the main use of the military hotline was to arrange passage for South Korean managers who work at a joint industrial complex in the North through the Demilitarized Zone. In 2009, North Korea’s move to sever the phone connection stranded some South Korean workers in the North for several days.

The move Wednesday to shut down one of the only modes



A South Korean K1 army tank fires live rounds during an exercise at Seungjin Fire Training Field in mountainous Pocheon, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

of communication between the Koreas is the latest of a series of threats designed to provoke the new government in Seoul to change its policies toward neighboring North Korea. President Park Geun-hye took office in Seoul a month ago.

Moves at home to order North Korean troops into “combat readiness” also are seen as ways to build domestic unity as young leader Kim Jong Un strengthens

his military credentials.

North Korea’s chief delegate relayed in a message Wednesday to his South Korean counterpart that Pyongyang would sever communications until South Korea halts “hostile acts” against the neighbor.

South Korea and the U.S. have been holding routine joint military drills that Pyongyang considers rehearsals for inva-

sion. North Korea also accuses the South of joining the U.S. in leading the campaign to punish Pyongyang for conducting a long-range rocket launch in December and an underground nuclear test in February.

“Under the situation where a war may break out any moment, there is no need to keep North-South military communications,” he said. “North-South military communications will be cut off.”

Afghan villagers flee their homes, blame US drones

KHALISFAMILYVILLAGE, Afghanistan (AP)—Barely able to walk even with a cane, Ghulam Rasool says he padlocked his front door, handed over the keys and his three cows to a neighbor and fled his mountain home in the middle of the night to escape relentless airstrikes from U.S. drones targeting militants in this remote corner of Afghanistan.

Rasool and other Afghan villagers have their own name for Predator drones. They call them benghai, which in the Pashto language means the “buzzing of flies.” When they explain the

noise, they scrunch their faces and try to make a sound that resembles an army of flies.

“They are evil things that fly so high you don’t see them but all the time you hear them,” said Rasool, whose body is stooped and shrunken with age and his voice barely louder than a whisper. “Night and day we hear this sound and then the bombardment starts.”

The U.S. military is increasingly relying on drone strikes inside Afghanistan, where the number of weapons fired from unmanned aerial aircraft soared

from 294 in 2011 to 506 last year. With international combat forces set to withdraw by the end of next year, such attacks are now used more for targeted killings and less for supporting ground troops.

It’s unclear whether Predator drone strikes will continue after 2014 in Afghanistan, where the government has complained bitterly about civilian casualties. The strikes sometimes accidentally kill civilians while forcing others to abandon their hometowns in fear, feeding widespread anti-American sentiment.

The Associated Press—in a rare on-the-ground look unaccompanied by military or security—visited two Afghan villages in Nangarhar province near the border with Pakistan to talk to residents who reported that they had been affected by drone strikes.

In one village, Afghans disputed NATO’s contention that five men killed in a particular drone strike were militants. In the other, a school that was leveled in a nighttime airstrike targeting Taliban fighters hiding inside has yet to be rebuilt.

PH gets first-ever investment grade

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Credit rating agency Fitch Ratings on Wednesday gave the Philippines its first-ever investment grade, allowing the Southeast Asian nation greater access to low-cost funds.

The agency said it has upgraded the Philippines’ long-term, foreign currency-denominated debt to BBB minus from BB plus and long-term local currency-denominated debt to BBB from BBB minus. The outlooks on both ratings are stable.

Fitch cited the Philippines’ strong sovereign external balance and persistent current account surplus. The economy has expanded 6.6 percent in 2012 and Fitch expects 5.5 percent growth this year.

President Benigno Aquino III said the upgrade would lower interest on debt and increase investments. He said it was an affirmation of his good governance agenda and economic reform.

“More companies in the real economy can now consider us an

investment destination,” Aquino said, adding that an investment grade for sovereign debt should lead to lower borrowing costs for Philippine companies in international markets.

Gareth Leather, Asia economist at the economic research company Capital Economics, said the upgrade—and similar



Aquino

expected upgrades by S&P and Moodys—“highlights big improvements the Philippine economy has undergone over the past decade, but the economic benefits are likely to be

quite small.”

He said government bond yields have fallen to record lows in anticipation of the upgrade and are lower than those of many countries which already have investment grade status. They are not likely to fall much further, he added.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the Aquino administration remains committed to eliminating corruption, spending on infrastructure and improving the overall business climate.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9357

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- SAIKICHY S. ANGEY and LUISA K. ANGEY, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0077
SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 0051272, situated in Koberville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 935 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 105, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 83-1364, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

JANET HAN KING
KING LAW OFFICE
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 520030
Tinian MP 96952
Tel: 433-0419/235-8060
Fax: 235-8070

Loren A. Sutton
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D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 5593
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 989-0627
Fax (670) 235-8070

Counselors for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHANG, MEI JIA dba SISTER MARKET, Plaintiff, Vs. EAP CORPORATION dba FILTRADE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION dba CARPET SUPPLY and SERVICES and EUFROCINIO PINON, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0051
SUMMONS

TO DEFENDANTS: EAP CORPORATION and EUFROCINIO PINON

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer, you make the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Loren A. Sutton, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Loren A. Sutton, P.O. Box 5593, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed by you or for you, by your counsel, and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:
DATED, this 28th day of February, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-016
PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS (Phase No. 3)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 14, 2013 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-016, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 9, 2013 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page—http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 19, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.gov with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.gov.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-COTA/FTA-093

SUBMISSION: APRIL 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SAIPAN FIXED-FLEX ROUTE AND PARA-TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 14, 2013 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN. A NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT OF FIFTY DOLLARS USD (\$50.00) IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SET. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE CNMI TREASURER AND A RECEIPT OF PAYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN OBTAINING THE SCOPE OF WORK AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 04, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. VINCE C. MERFALEN, MOBILITY & TRANSIT COORDINATOR OR FAXED TO (670) 664-2211 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS: APRIL 10, 2013.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Department of Finance
Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFP13-COTA/FTA-093

"SAIPAN FIXED-FLEX ROUTE AND PARA-TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

This addendum is issued to change the following:

- To delete the non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars USD (\$50.00) required to obtain the RFP packet.

All else remain the same.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, Procurement and Supply

March 21, 2013

Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation
invites qualified US workers to apply for the following:

Aircraft Service Agent (1)

High school graduate or its equivalent with 2 years of aircraft interior/exterior cleaning. Ability to operate different types of cleaning equipment, tools and materials to render grooming and other required services to airline customer aircraft.

DEADLINE: APRIL 2, 2013
Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

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World

Optimism in UN over 1st global arms trade treaty

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The first global treaty on regulating the multimillion-dollar arms trade appeared to be nearing consensus, supporters said, though worries remained that Iran, India or other countries would back off an agreement that requires approval from all 193 United Nations member states.

Thursday is the deadline for reaching a deal. U.N. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations have been private, said Wednesday the United States was virtually certain to go along with the latest text.

Hopes of reaching agreement

on what would be a landmark treaty were dashed last July when the U.S. said it needed more time to consider the proposed accord—a move quickly backed by Russia and China. In December, the U.N. General Assembly decided to hold a final conference and set Thursday as the deadline.

“We need a treaty,” China’s U.N. Ambassador Li Baodong told The Associated Press. “We hope for consensus.”

Iran, Egypt, India and several other countries have had serious concerns about the text.

There has never been an international treaty regulating the estimated \$60 billion global

arms trade. For more than a decade, activists and some governments have been pushing for international rules to try to keep illicit weapons out of the hands of terrorists, insurgent fighters and organized crime.

“It’s important for each and every country in the world that we have a regulation of the international arms trade,” Germany’s U.N. Ambassador Peter Wittig told the AP. “There are still some divergencies of views, but I trust we can overcome them.”

The draft treaty does not control the domestic use of weapons in any country, but it would require all countries to establish

national regulations to control the transfer of conventional arms, parts and components and to regulate arms brokers. It would prohibit states that ratify the treaty from transferring conventional weapons if they would violate arms embargoes or if they would promote acts of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

The final draft makes this human rights provision even stronger, adding that the export of conventional arms should be prohibited if they could be used in the commission of attacks on civilians or civilian buildings such as schools and hospitals.

In considering whether to au-

thorize the export of arms, the draft says a country must evaluate whether the weapon would be used to violate international laws or be used by terrorists or organized crime. The final draft would allow countries to determine whether the weapons transfer would contribute to or undermine peace and security.

Anna Macdonald, Oxfam’s head of arms control, said the scope of the weapons covered in the latest draft is still too narrow.

“We need a treaty that covers all conventional weapons, not just some of them,” she said.

“We need a treaty that will make a difference to the lives of the people living in Congo, Mali, Syria and elsewhere who suffer each day from the impacts of armed violence.”

Ammunition has been a key issue, with some countries pressing for the same controls on ammunition sales as arms, but the U.S. and others opposed such tough restrictions. The draft calls for each country that ratifies the treaty to establish regulations for the export of ammunition “fired, launched or delivered” by the weapons covered by the convention.

Pope reluctant to be pope: What does it mean?

VATICAN CITY (AP)—He still goes by “Bergoglio” when speaking to friends, seems reluctant to call himself pope and has decided to live in the Vatican hotel rather than the grand papal apartment in the Apostolic Palace.

It might seem as if Pope Francis is in a bit of denial over his new job as leader of the world’s 1.2-billion Catholics. Or perhaps he’s simply changing the popular idea of what it means to be pope, keeping the no-frills style he cultivated as archbishop of Buenos Aires in ways that may have broad implications for the church.

The world has already seen how Francis has cast aside many trappings of the papacy, refusing to don the red velvet cape Benedict XVI wore for official occasions and keeping the simple, iron-plated pectoral cross he used as bishop and archbishop.

On Thursday, his belief that a pope’s job is to serve the world’s lowliest will be on display when he washes the feet of a dozen young inmates at a juvenile detention center in Rome. Previous popes have celebrated the Holy Thursday ritual, which re-enacts Christ’s washing of his disciples’ feet before his crucifixion, by washing the feet of priests in one of Rome’s most

ornate basilicas.

Such moves hint, even at this early stage, only two weeks into his papacy, at an apparent effort by Francis to demystify the office of pope.

Unlike his predecessors, he doesn’t sign his name “Pope Francis,” ending his official correspondence simply “Francis.”

To those closest he is still Bergoglio, and this week, Italian state radio broadcast a voice mail he left wishing a friend Happy Birthday. “It’s Bergoglio,” the pope said, using the surname he was born with.

Even on Day One, Francis didn’t acknowledge he was pope.

Speaking on the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica after his election the night of March 13, Francis told the tens of thousands gathered there that the cardinals’ task during the conclave had been to “give Rome a bishop.”

And bishop of Rome is the title he has emphasized repeatedly ever since—not vicar of Christ, or any of his other official titles.

“I do think there is something about trying to reduce the awesomeness, the grandeur and majesty of the papacy,” said John Allen Jr., Vatican columnist for the National Catholic Reporter. “Part of this is just his personality. He’s never liked pomp and circumstance.”



In this Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012 file photo, Syrian rebel fighter Tawfiq Hassan, 23, a former butcher, poses for a picture, after returning from fighting against Syrian army forces in Aleppo, at a rebel headquarters in Marea on the outskirts of Aleppo city, Syria.

‘Arms shipments rise to Syrian rebels’

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Mideast powers opposed to President Bashar Assad have dramatically stepped up weapons supplies to Syrian rebels in coordination with the U.S. in preparation for a push on the capital of Damascus, officials and Western military experts said Wednesday.

A carefully prepared covert operation is arming rebels, involving Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar, with the United States and other Western governments consulting, and all parties hold veto power over where the shipments are directed, according to a senior Arab official whose government is participating. His account was corroborated by a diplomat and two military experts.

The Arab official said

the number of arms airlifts has doubled in the past four weeks. He did not provide exact figures on the flights or the size of the cargo. Jordan opened up as a new route for the weapons late last year, amid U.S. worries that arms from Turkey were going to Islamic militants, all four told The Associated Press in separate interviews. Jordan denies helping funnel weapons to the rebels.

The two military experts, who closely follow the traffic, said the weapons include more powerful, Croatian-made anti-tank guns and rockets than the rebels have had before.

The Arab official said there was a “master plan” for the rebels to seize Damascus. He and the diplomat spoke to the

AP on condition that their identities and their nationalities not be disclosed because the operation was covert.

“The idea is that the rebels now have the necessary means to advance from different fronts—north from Turkey and south from Jordan—to close in on Damascus to unseat Assad,” the Arab official said. He declined to provide details, but said the plan is being prepared in stages and will take “days or weeks” for results.

Rebels have captured suburbs around Damascus but have been largely unable to break into the heavily guarded capital. Instead, they have hit central neighborhoods of the city with increasingly heavy mortar volleys from their positions to the northeast and south.

But rebels in the south are fighting to secure supply lines from the border with Jordan to the capital, and the new influx of weapons from Jordan has fueled the drive, a rebel commander in a southwestern suburb of the capital said. The consensus among the multiple rebel groups was that Damascus is the next objective, he added.

“There is an attempt to secure towns and villages along the international line linking Amman and Damascus. Significant progress is being made. The new weapons come in that context,” said the commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of Syrian government reprisal. He said his own fighters on the capital’s outskirts had not received any arms from the influx but that he had heard about the new weapons from comrades in the south.

WORLD BRIEFS

Africa: Mandela in hospital with lung infection

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa says Nelson Mandela has been admitted to a hospital with a lung infection. The office of President Jacob Zuma said in a statement Thursday that the 94-year-old former president and anti-apartheid leader went to the hospital just before midnight on Wednesday. The statement says Mandela is being treated for a “recurrence of his lung infection” and that doctors are ensuring he has the best possible treatment.

Brazilian doctor suspected of killing patients

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil’s health ministry says a doctor is suspected of killing seven terminally ill patients in a southern Brazilian hospital. A ministry press officer says Virginia Helena Soares de Souza and seven assistants are suspected of injecting the patients with “drug cocktails” and of tampering with their respirators. The press officer declined to be identified because she was not authorized to comment on the case. Souza was arrested in Curitiba last month but released on bail a week ago pending the outcome of the investigation.

Off the Wall

Ohio prosecutor drops charge against Pa. groundhog

CINCINNATI (AP)—Phil is off the hook.

A winter-weary Ohio prosecutor who filed a tongue-in-cheek criminal indictment against the famous Pennsylvania groundhog over his “prediction” of an early spring dropped the charge Tuesday. Butler County Prosecutor Mike Gmoser said Punxsutawney Phil has a “defense with teeth in it” since the animal’s handler is taking the blame.

The Groundhog Day celebration in Punxsutawney, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, attracts worldwide attention each year. But when Gmoser filed his indictment last week after snow was forecast to fall after the official start of spring, renewed attention made it feel like Feb. 2 all over again.

Bill Deeley, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club’s Inner Circle, said Monday the furry prognosticator had actually predicted six more weeks of winter, but he mistak-

Pa. ballpark to debut a ‘urinal gaming system’

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Talk about streaming media: The Philadelphia Phillies’ top minor league affiliate is set to debut what it calls a “urinal gaming system” at its ballpark in Allentown.

The Lehigh Valley IronPigs tapped a British company to install the system in men’s restrooms at Coca-Cola Park.

It consists of a video display mounted above each urinal. When a fan approaches, the video console will sense his presence and switch into gaming mode. The guy aims left or right to control the play on the screen.

The team said Tuesday that Coca-Cola Park will be the first sports venue in the world to feature the gaming system. It’ll be ready by opening day next week.

Finnish hotel seeks professional guest

HELSINKI (AP)—Fed up with the neighbors? Pipes burst in the kitchen? Or, you just want to get away from it all for a while?

Hotel Finn in the heart of Helsinki might just be the ticket - they’re seeking a “professional sleeper” for 35 days to test their rooms and write all about it.

Hotel manager Tio Tikka says he thought up the stunt to help promote the hotel after lengthy renovations.



This Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013 file photo shows Groundhog Club Co-handler Ron Ploucha holding the weather predicting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, after the club said Phil did not see his shadow and there will be an early spring during the Groundhog Day ceremony in Punxsutawney, Pa.

only announced an early spring because he failed to correctly interpret Phil’s “groundhog-ese.”

“Now it turns out, Punxsutawney Phil is little more than a scapegoat,” Gmoser wrote in the dismissal.

That’s a sharp contrast to last week, when Gmoser had written: “Punxsutawney Phil did

purposely, and with prior calculation and design, cause the people to believe that spring would come early.”

Deeley said Tuesday that going after the groundhog probably gave prosecutors some relief from the challenges they normally face bringing murderers, drug dealers and other criminals to justice.

Meanwhile, Phil seemed unfazed by the charge.

“No, he’s not worried,” Deeley said. “He’s getting three square meals a day, and a lot of rest.”

He also said the community appreciated all the extra publicity, which he said “you couldn’t put a dollar figure on.” Gmoser’s office said he had also received

hundreds of calls.

Deeley wanted to be sure Tuesday he wouldn’t be the prosecutor’s next target, but Gmoser said it was time to move on.

“Truly, I have really serious work to do in Butler County,” he said from his office in Hamilton, some 25 miles north of Cincinnati, even as snowflakes dropped from the skies. “Let’s end it on a high note.”

He assured Ohio’s lesser-known fuzzy forecaster, Buckeye Chuck, he won’t face prosecution for his own erroneous prediction. Chuck, it turned out, was granted immunity after agreeing to cooperate with the state.

“I’m kind of done with animal cases,” Gmoser said. “Maybe another prosecutor can go after the Easter Bunny.”

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

Naomi Therese DeLeon Guerrero Benjamin

On March 16, 2013, our lives were changed forever when our fun-loving, free-spirited Naomi Therese left us in this world to join our Creator. While losing Omi has left an indescribable void in our lives, we take comfort in knowing that she is now in Heaven, and that she has touched so many lives during her short time with us.

No words will ever be enough to express our sincere gratitude to all who have assisted us during this most difficult time—whether you offered a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen to our thoughts, a few comforting words, a silent prayer, monetary or in-kind donations, we are forever grateful to each of you. To all our family members, and Omi’s friends and co-workers, thank you for making her a part of your lives.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us all until the day we meet again with our beloved Omi in Paradise.

Thank you, Si Yu’us Ma’ase, and Kalangan

Nick W. and Elaine DLG. Benjamin,
Children and Family



In this Tuesday, March 26, 2013 photo provided by the Lehigh Valley IronPigs minor league baseball team, a urinal gaming system is shown in a men’s restroom at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown, Pa.

IronPigs General Manager Kurt Landes says he didn’t want to flush away a golden opportunity to entertain fans. He says the games are “sure to make a huge splash.”

Tikka said Wednesday that they were looking for a “dynamic person to write a quality blog” about their daily experiences at the basic hotel, which has no bar or restaurant.

Requirements: Fluent Finnish and English, Russian a plus. The job opens May 17 with applications closing end of April.

So far more than 600 would-be hotel sleepers have applied.

Science & Technology

Wearable electronics move on from iPhone, to iWatch and beyond

By PATRICK MAY
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

You can wear your heart on your sleeve. Why not your electronics?

In a burgeoning trend that has captivated Silicon Valley, a mind-boggling array of “wearable electronics” has begun to arrive, not just at a website or clothing outlet near you, but on an arm, a face, a wrist and even a pinkie finger.

“Everyone’s recognizing that tech’s next great, innovating chapter is more practical and intimate use of computing power in our everyday lives,” said Scot Herbst with San Jose, Calif.-based design firm Herbst Produkt. “And that means not having to reach into your pocket, grab your phone and put in a password. It’s all about making computers more organic in their interaction with you.”

Hold on to your hats, which also happen to be undergoing digital makeovers of their own with things like snowboard helmets decked out with a pair of \$599 Oakley Airwave goggles with GPS and streaming audio. From Apple’s rumored iWatch to Google’s in-the-works eye-glass-like “Glass” (\$1,500 for

an early pilot version) to tech-embedded clothing from Uniqlo that uses the body’s evaporating moisture to heat knee-high socks that cost about \$13 a pair, the wearable digital revolution is upon us.

“The trend is gaining momentum because the cost of chips, along with sensors like gyroscopes and heat- and light-sensing devices, has dropped dramatically,” said analyst Avi Greengart, research director for consumer devices at Current Analysis.

He knows firsthand the wonderful allure of this wearable technology. Greengart uses it himself.

“Unlike a lot of bleeding-edge tech, these things work,” he said. “I have a Fitbit, which is a little clip you put on your belt, and it’s a glorified pedometer. But it does much more, and it makes it easy for me to see how much physical activity I’ve had during the day, for example, and that motivates me to exercise even more.”

An army of engineers, fashion designers, futurists and gadget geeks is hard at work, trying to extend the reach of computing power along those precious few inches from pocket and purse to forearms and ears.

At Intel Labs, user-experience researcher Cory Booth said his team is looking even beyond that, “past the near-term fascination with specific locations on the body, like the wrist, to a more long-term view. We see an entire new ecosystem of devices that will multiply over time and interact with one another.”

Many of these gadgets will simply piggyback on the muscular computing prowess available in the cloud, said Mike Roberts, an engineer with PARC, a Xerox-founded research-and-development center in Palo Alto, Calif.

Computers take the mountain of input from your device, crunch it, and immediately suggest ways for you to, say, improve your athletic performance.

Roberts talked about one very human application of wearable technology, a beta version of a head-mounted computer that PARC worked on with Motorola Solutions. It connects a user in the field—say, a sailor trying to fix a broken generator on a naval ship—with an expert thousands of miles away.

“This remote collaboration enables the expert to help someone in the field solve a complicated problem in real

Wearable electronics

With chips shrinking and sensors becoming cheaper, personal computing is moving from that smartphone in your pocket to your arm, your wrist, right out to your fingertips.



Graphic: Chuck Todd, Bay Area News Group

© 2013 MCT

time,” Roberts said. “The helmet’s video camera captures the generator, then the expert takes stills from the video and annotates them to show the guy which bolts to remove to fix the generator. This gives you expert advice anywhere in the world, and it’s all hands-free.”

Over time, experts say, consumers will be dazzled by an assortment of electronic gear woven into their clothing, strapped to their limbs, wrapped as thin membranes over their fingers, or hung from their belts. Challenges with wearable tech abound, from harnessing enough computing power onto ultrathin devices like pieces of tape to persuading average consumers to wear silly-looking glasses and bulky watches without “nerding them out” too much. As futurist Paul Saffo puts it, “I’m convinced the Segway failed because no matter who drove it, they looked like a dork.”

Cool tech toys are one thing, but merging them with fashion raises all sorts of issues for designers. Said Saffo, “Wearable technology is absolutely the way we’re heading, but the secret is how designers work out the details. The genius of Apple is that it’s a fashion company that also does tech. Look at the iPhone—it’s a beautiful polished talisman, even when it’s just sitting there.”

Fourth Death Anniversary In Loving Memory



We, the Family of the late

† Monica Cruz Lizama

Lovingly known as “Kokang – Leighimwai”

Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us commemorate her Fourth Year Death Anniversary of her passage unto eternal life.

Mass will be offered at San Jose Church on the following dates:

Sunday	March 24, 2013	7:30 AM
Monday	March 25, 2013	6:00 AM
Tuesday	March 26, 2013	6:00 AM
Wednesday	March 27, 2013	6:00 AM
Thursday	March 28, 2013	7:00 PM
Friday	March 29, 2013	NO MASS
Saturday	March 30, 2013	7:00 PM
Sunday	March 31, 2013	7:00 AM

On the final day, **Monday, April 1, 2013**, Mass will be celebrated at San Jose Church at 6:00 AM. Breakfast will follow at the San Jose Social Hall. May God Bless Us All

From Joaquin C. Lizama & Children

Google adds street views inside Japan nuclear zone

TOKYO (AP)—Concrete rubble litters streets lined with shuttered shops and dark windows. A collapsed roof juts from the ground. A ship sits stranded on a stretch of dirt flattened when the tsunami roared across the coastline. There isn’t a person in sight.

Google Street View is giving the world a rare glimpse into one of Japan’s eerie ghost towns, created when the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami sparked a nuclear disaster that has left the area uninhabitable.

The technology pieces together digital images captured by Google’s fleet of camera-equipped vehicles and allows viewers to take virtual tours of locations around the world, including faraway spots like the South Pole and fantastic landscapes like the Grand Canyon.

Now it is taking people inside Japan’s nuclear no-go zone, to the city of Namie, whose 21,000 residents have been unable to return to live since they fled the radiation spewing from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant two years ago.

Kushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant two years ago. Koto Naganuma, 32, who lost her home in the tsunami, said some people find it too painful to see the places that were so familiar yet are now so out of reach.

She has only gone back once, a year ago, and for a few minutes.

“I’m looking forward to it. I’m excited I can take a look at those places that are so dear to me,” said Naganuma. “It would be hard, too. No one is going to be there.”



AP

In this March, 2013 image released March 27, 2013, by Google, showing its camera-equipped vehicle as it moves through Namie town in Japan, a nuclear no-go zone where former residents have been unable to live since they fled from radioactive contamination from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant two years ago.

Life & Style

NBC executive: We're not replacing Matt Lauer

NEW YORK (AP)—A top NBC News executive said Wednesday the network is not considering replacing Matt Lauer as anchor of the “Today” show despite reports that Anderson Cooper of CNN was approached about the job.

“Matt Lauer is the best in the business,” said Alex Wallace, NBC News executive who oversees the “Today” show. “We want him in the ‘Today’ show anchor chair for many years to come.”

Wallace spoke after reports of a meeting with Cooper first appeared in Deadline Hollywood. The report was confirmed to The Associated Press by a source who spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were private and was not authorized to speak to the media.

The longtime king of morning television, “Today” has fallen behind ABC’s “Good Morning America” in the ratings over the past year, particularly since the messy ouster of Ann Curry as

Ford not ‘yet’ ready to talk ‘Star Wars’ sequels

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harrison Ford isn’t ready—“yet”—to talk about his reported part in Disney’s planned “Star Wars” sequel, but he praises its director, J.J. Abrams.

“I think he’s fantastic,” Ford said in a recent interview. “I did his first movie, ‘Regarding Henry,’ with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy.”

The 70-year-old actor—who came to fame playing Han Solo in the “Star Wars” trilogy—is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his role as Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey in the upcoming Jackie Robinson film “42.”

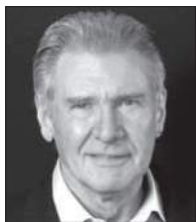
Asked how he feels generally that the “Star Wars” sequel and Disney spinoffs are in the works, Ford responded: “I don’t feel anything at the moment yet.”

In an article published earlier this month, “Star Wars” creator George Lucas told Bloomberg Businessweek that Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher had been in negotiations to return to the franchise even before Lucasfilm was sold to Disney last year.

Was Ford surprised by that announcement? He makes the universal zipping-my-lips sign. Asked what it will take to get him to commit to play Han Solo again, Ford said, “Um, I don’t even want to discuss that. It’s great. Ain’t it great?”

It’s been over two decades since Abrams wrote the “Regarding Henry” screenplay. Have the two chatted recently?

“About what?” Ford asked, smirking and taking a slow sip from a cup.



Ford

Lauer’s co-anchor last summer. There has been a flurry of stories recently retracing that decision. Lauer has said he urged the network to move more slowly with its planned changes, but a New York magazine cover story this week suggested he didn’t like Curry and did little to help her.

Whatever happened, it’s clear that many “Today” viewers who did not like what happened to Curry have taken their anger out on Lauer.

In 2012, Lauer’s positive “Q” score was 23—meaning 23 percent of people who knew him considered Lauer one of their favorite broadcasters, according to Marketing Evaluations Inc., a company that measures public sentiment toward well-known personalities. Last summer that score dropped to 14 and this month stands at 9, the company said. For the first time, George Stephanopoulos of “Good Morning America” has surpassed him. Among women, who make up the bulk of morning show audiences, Stephanop-

oulos is nearly twice as popular as Lauer and his “GMA” partner, Robin Roberts, is nearly three times as popular, the company said.

Where in the world is Matt Lauer? Trapped in a vortex of bad vibes with no escape in sight.

The approach to Cooper could mean that NBC has concluded that the time is right to actively work on replacing Lauer. Or not: his contract expires at the end of 2014 and it is widely assumed that Lauer will be ready then to move on from a job he’s held since 1997. Under those circumstances, a forward-looking management team would be expected to be looking at alternatives.

“NBC News has many exploratory talks with talent inside and outside of the network, but to read anything specific into that is presumptuous,” said an NBC News executive who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to discuss personnel moves.

Lauer has talked about resetting “Today” to be more serious, with less emphasis on crime stories. NBC was criticized this week by advocates for sexual abuse victims because “Today” aired

excerpts of an interview that filmmaker John Ziegler had with convicted Penn State molester Jerry Sandusky; Lauer interviewed Ziegler on the air.

Potential internal replacements for Lauer could include Willie Geist, who co-hosts the third hour of “Today” in addition to work on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” and “Meet the Press” anchor David Gregory. Both have subbed for Lauer when he was absent.



Lauer

The question for many in the television industry is whether the “Today” show can hope to change its fortunes with Lauer at the helm. “Today” hasn’t beaten “Good Morning America” for any week in the ratings since the

Olympics last summer and with Roberts’ return after an illness in February, the gap between the two shows hit its widest. NBC says preliminary numbers show the two shows last week were as close as they’ve been since December and that “Today” frequently wins among youthful news viewers.

“This awful, false narrative campaign against Matt has certainly made him vulnerable, but Matt is still, in my opinion, the best anchor who has ever occupied that chair,” said Shelley Ross, former executive producer at “Good

Morning America” and “The Early Show” at CBS, where she competed against Lauer. She said she believed NBC’s competitors were helping to keep negative stories about Lauer alive.

NBC was right to replace Curry but handled it badly, she said.

The cyclical nature of television is also likely hurting Lauer. It’s a rare personality that stays beloved forever. Ross and others in the industry believe that Lauer’s latest contract, which reportedly pays him \$25 million a year, drove a wedge between the anchor and viewers who no longer view him as a regular guy.

Paul Friedman, a former news executive at ABC and CBS, also said Lauer is the best he’s seen in his role. But currently, ABC’s “Good Morning America” is a broadcast that provides viewers with information from personalities who appear to be enjoying what they’re doing, he said.

“I don’t think the fuss in the press is what matters to viewers,” said Friedman, who teaches journalism at Connecticut’s Quinnipiac University. “What matters is what is seen on the air, and right now what’s on the air is a cast that doesn’t appear to enjoy themselves and what they’re doing—as they do at ‘Good Morning America.’”

Dido puts family before her new album

By **RYAN PEARSON**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER



WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.

(AP)—Dido had been planning a relatively quick return to the spotlight after 2008’s

“Safe Trip Home.” She holed up in Los Angeles and London studios to record a set of electronic-tinged songs.

“I was busy telling everyone there was an album on the way,” Dido said. “And then I found out there was a baby on the way instead.”

She and husband Rohan Gavin welcomed their first child, a son named Stanley, in July 2011. Dido packed up the recordings to focus on family.

But then late last year, the 41-year-old English singer reached out to her brother, producer Rollo Armstrong, to finally put the finishing touches on her fourth album, “Girl Who Got Away,” released Tuesday.

Quick to laugh and full of self-deprecating asides, Dido recently sat down with The Associated Press to discuss her new songs, her son’s musical tastes and her tendency to retreat from fame.

AP: The album has some electronica and dubstep influence. What were you feeling and listening to as you edged in that direction?

Dido: All the music you listen to in your life is all in like this big melting pot in your head and you can’t help it. All the things you love just come out—whether it’s dance music, hip-hop, folk. And I just love so many different types of music. ... It’s similar to ‘No Angel’ in that way in it’s sort of unashamedly doing what I want. But



This 2013 image released by RCA shows musician Dido performing in London. Dido’s latest album, “Girl Who Got Away,” was released on Tuesday, March 26.

the thing that’s holding it together is the songs and the same voice.

AP: The album title seems to evoke a desire to escape and be away from the spotlight. Is that right?

Dido: It’s a slightly almost joking comment on me, I guess. Everyone else spotted that aspect of the title. ... They’re like, ‘Well, it’s sort of perfect because you do keep disappearing.’ And it’s like, ‘Really? Sorry!’ I’ve never felt a need to sort of keep being in the public eye. I don’t have that burning need. I do have a burning need to make music. I can’t stop doing that and I don’t want to stop doing that. Music is my thing and it’s the way I see the world. And I love writing songs and I will always keep doing that.

AP: Your husband wrote and is set to release a book that focuses on a father-son relationship. Has being a mother changed you creatively?

Dido: Obviously when you first have a kid, you’re so focused on them and your brain slightly disintegrates. I don’t know if anyone else has that, but it’s just like, ‘Wow, where did my brain go?’ Then it sort of comes back. ... Now I really see the world through his eyes and it gives this real freshness to everything. It’s like if you thought you were going to run out of things to ever write about, you have a kid, then you’re never going to run out because suddenly everything is sort of limitless again and fresh and new and it’s like this amazing new start.

AP: Can you see yourself making children’s music?

Dido: I doubt it. I sing joke songs to Stanley all the time, but I’m not going to be making an album of them for public consumption. No, probably not. I think I’ll stick to what I do best. ... It’s quite tempting sometimes when I’m writing joke songs about spinach.

AP: Is Stanley a big critic or does he love everything you do?

Dido: The things he loves, he just goes into a complete trance and he just smiles and just listens. And he’s amazing when he loves something. When he doesn’t love something, he just waves at it really vigorously like, ‘Turn it off!’ So it’s quite nerve-racking.

AP: Even when you’re singing?

Dido: Not when I’m actually singing to him right then and there. But there’s certain records that I play where if he doesn’t like it, he’s waving at it. Partly because all he wants to listen to at the moment is (first single) ‘No Freedom.’ It’s quite strange. Again and again and again.

AP: You became famous in the U.S. at least in part for your collaboration with Eminem on “Stan.” You named your son Stanley and some people have said that coincidence seems odd.

Dido: Well, Stanley was actually our favorite name, coincidentally both of our favorite names. He could never have been called anything else to be honest, because it was such a coincidence that it was both of our favorite names. ... I’m so stupid; I didn’t think anyone would make the connection. ... But it’s fine. I was named after a crazy queen who threw herself on a fire. So I mean, you know, it’s fine.

AP: Has your son heard the “Stan” song yet?

Dido: Um. Has he even heard it? I don’t know that he’s even heard it. No. But I’m sure he’ll hear it later.

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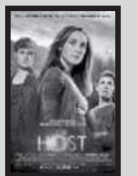
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\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
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OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

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The Host

Friday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday & Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Max Irons, Jake Abel
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When a body-snatching alien infiltrates a group of human rebels and takes over the soul of Melanie (played by Saoirse Ronan), it begins to feel bits of her personality coming through in this Inferno adaptation of the best-selling novel from Twilight's Stephenie Meyer.



Tyler Perry's Temptation

Friday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday & Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Vanessa Williams
Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13



G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday & Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday	4:25		
Saturday	4:25		
Sunday	4:25		
Monday & Thursday	4:25		

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



The Croods 3D

Friday	1:15	7:15
Saturday	1:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	7:15
Monday & Thursday		7:15

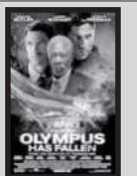
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



The Croods 2D

Friday	4:15	9:30
Saturday	4:15	9:30
Sunday	4:15	
Monday & Tuesday	4:15	

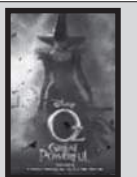
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



Olympus Has Fallen

Friday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday & Thursday		4:30	7:30	

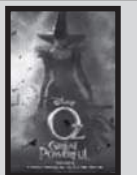
Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R



Oz The Great and Powerful 3D

Friday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday & Thursday		7:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Oz The Great and Powerful 2D

Friday	4:00		
Saturday	4:00		
Sunday	4:00		
Monday & Tuesday	4:00		

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday & Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Cassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.



'G.I. Joe' sequel back on mission after 3-D delay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—G. I. Joe's second big-screen mission was just about to begin last year when Paramount suddenly called the troops back to base, delaying the release of "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" by nine months to convert it to 3-D. The move came just weeks after another movie based on a Hasbro toy, "Battleship," was torpedoed at the box office.

Fans will soon find out if it was worth the wait: "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" opens today.

Though director Jon M. Chu always wanted to make the film in 3-D, learning of the delay a month before the film was set to open was initially crushing.

"It's kind of like running a marathon and you're at the last leg and you're exhausted and you're right at the finish line ... and then someone trips you and says, 'Oh, that's not the line. That was just an illusion. It's actually double the time,'" he said in a recent interview. "Literally your body aches."

It's not unusual for movie debut dates to bounce around a bit before being buttoned down, as production schedules and competing releases are assessed. But lengthy, last-minute delays are rare. The studio had even begun some "G.I. Joe" advertising efforts when it announced the 3-D delay last May.

At the time, some speculated it wasn't just about adding dimension, but also adding more of rising-star Channing Tatum, who was featured in 2009's "G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra" but didn't clock much screen time in the sequel.

Yet the filmmakers insist they didn't shoot any new footage for "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," saving the stars from shuffling their schedules for more than a cou-



This publicity photo released by Paramount Pictures shows Channing Tatum, as Duke in a scene from the film, "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," from Paramount Pictures, MGM, and Skydance Productions.

ple weeks of promotional appearances. Instead, Chu and his team spent their time solely on converting the film to 3-D, and they hope fans will be so dazzled by the effects that they'll forgive the nine-month wait.

"We had to get in frame by frame and turn it into 3-D, which was a long, laborious task," Chu said, "but ultimately I think it really helps our movie."

But will it be enough to bring fans into theaters?

"Unfortunately, movies some-

how get a stigma by moving (dates)," said producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura. "There's also some people who go, 'Oh, was that movie not good enough? Is that why you guys pushed it?' So you've got to work your way through some of that as well."

The producer had also hoped to make the film in 3-D originally, "but we didn't have time to do it properly," he said.

Chu had two 3-D movies to his credit ("Step Up 3D" and the 2011 documentary "Justin

Bieber: Never Say Never"), and expected to approach the G.I. Joe sequel three-dimensionally, too. Even though it was shot in 2-D, the director said he brought a 3-D sensibility to filming.

"Depth is always part of my language now, only because I had to do it for the last four years. So every scene, even though it wasn't in 3-D, depth was a part of the frame," he said. "Of course, if I knew it was going to be 3-D, would I have done a couple things differently? For sure. But we wouldn't have done (the conversion) if we didn't look at the movie and think we have enough fun things in it to take advantage of 3-D."

Among the dimensionalized fun? Jets that soar past moviegoers' heads, and a high-flying fight among ninjas in the Himalayas.

Fans online seem excited about "Retaliation," which stars Dwayne Johnson and Bruce Willis, along with Tatum and others. The movie site Fandango.com reports positive Twitter buzz for the film, which is the only new action offering on a weekend when many students are on spring break.

Also opening are "Tyler Perry's Temptation," the romance-adventure "The Host" and the crime drama "The Place Beyond the Pines."

Waiting for a spring debut may pay off for G.I. Joe if the 3-D improves the film, said Dave Karger, chief correspondent for Fandango.

"The movie will have a harder time making summer money in late March," he said, "but it stands a better chance to be well-received now if it's a more of a crowd-pleasing film because of the 3-D."

Actress Ashley Judd won't run for US Senate

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—Actress Ashley Judd announced Wednesday she won't run for U.S. Senate in Kentucky against Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, saying she had given serious thought to a campaign but decided her responsibilities and energy need to be focused on her family.

The former Kentucky resident tweeted her decision.

"Regretfully, I am currently unable to consider a campaign for the Senate. I have spoken to so many Kentuckians over these last few months who expressed their desire for a fighter for the people & new leader," Judd wrote.

"While that won't be me at this time, I will continue to work as hard as I can to ensure the needs of Kentucky families are met by returning this Senate seat to whom it rightfully belongs: the people & their needs, dreams, and great potential. Thanks for even considering me as that person

& know how much I love our Commonwealth. Thank you!"

Her publicist Cara Tripicchio confirmed Judd's decision.

The 44-year-old Judd had hinted last week that she was nearing a decision about the race.

Now living in suburban Nashville, Tenn., Judd has said little publicly about her intentions. However, she has been meeting with several Democratic leaders, including Gov. Steve Beshear, to discuss a possible run.

Defeating McConnell would be the Democrats' biggest prize of the 2014 election. His seat is one of 14 that Republicans are defending while Democrats try to hold onto 21, hoping to retain or add to their 55-45 edge.

The star of such films as "Double Jeopardy" and "Kiss the Girls" is known for her liberal political views and she would have been running in a largely conservative state where Republicans hold both Senate seats and five of the six seats in the U.S. House.



In this Nov. 1, 2008 file photo, actress Ashley Judd, a Kentucky native, speaks at a Democratic get-out-the-vote rally in Louisville, Ky.

Former State Treasurer Jonathan Miller, a Judd supporter, said she would have been a strong candidate.

"As a Kentuckian and someone who was really enthusiastic about her as a candidate, this wasn't the news I was hoping for," Miller said. "But as her friend, from the first time we talked about the race last summer, I was very candid about the grueling nature of politics. It's become a very unpleasant business and running against

Mitch McConnell would be an extraordinarily difficult and grueling experience."

McConnell, who spent some \$20 million on his last election and who has already raised \$10 million for the next one, had already been taunting would-be Democratic challengers in a comical online video intended to raise second thoughts about taking on a politician known as brawler. The video plays on the fact that Judd lives in Tennessee.

Wachowskis to make sci-fi series for Netflix

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix's newest original series will be science-fiction from the duo behind the "The Matrix" trilogy.

Netflix announced Wednesday that it will stream "Sense8" late next year for subscribers. The series is the first foray into television for Andy and Lana Wachowski, the filmmaking siblings who directed "The Matrix" and last year's "Cloud Atlas."

Netflix called the 10-episode series "a gripping global tale of minds linked and souls hunted." The show runner will be J. Michael Straczynski, creator of "Babylon 5," which aired for five seasons in the 1990s.

Netflix made its biggest splash with an original series last month with the debut of the political thriller "House of Cards," starring Kevin Spacey. This spring, it will premiere the horror series "Hemlock Grove" and the reborn comedy "Arrested Development."



This Oct. 24, 2012 file photo shows Co-directors Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski at the Los Angeles premiere of "Cloud Atlas" in Los Angeles.

Publisher speeds up e-book access for libraries

NEW YORK (AP)—The publisher of Khaled Hosseini, Harlan Coben and other popular authors has decided that it's comfortable with letting libraries offer e-book editions of brand new releases.

Starting Tuesday, libraries can offer e-books from Penguin Group (USA) at the same time that the hardcover comes out, a switch from the previous policy of delaying downloads for six months, the publisher told The Associated Press. While vastly more e-books are available to libraries compared with a few years ago, Penguin and other publishers have limited digital access for fear of losing sales. The American Library Association has been calling for less restrictive terms.

"I am pleased to learn that Penguin's pilot is confirming what research suggests and librarians believe: There is more to be gained than lost when publishers work with libraries," association president Maureen Sullivan said in a statement. "We are encouraged by Penguin's willingness to experiment, make adjustments and move forward with libraries and our millions of readers."

Penguin has for months been tracking e-book usage at libraries through pilot programs around the country. The effect of library downloads on commercial revenues has been acceptable and the publisher was comfortable with making new releases available, the director of online sales and marketing, Tim McCall, said Wednesday. That means libraries can provide e-editions of Hosseini's "And the Mountains Echoed" starting with its official date of publication, May 21.

"We feel that we're ready to take the next step and offer what consumers and libraries have been asking for," said McCall,

who added that Penguin was not raising the price charged to libraries for e-books.

Like HarperCollins, Hachette Book Group and other publish-

ers, Penguin is still not offering unlimited access to e-books. Libraries are allowed to lend out one e-edition at a time, for a duration determined by the

library. Because e-books don't wear out, libraries can purchase them for one year, then must pay again to continue making them available.

Source: Zuckerberg forming political group

NEW YORK (AP)—A person familiar with Facebook says CEO Mark Zuckerberg is forming a political group to address issues such as education reform, immigration and scientific research.

The person says the group will formally launch in the coming weeks. The person

spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is not public. The San Francisco Chronicle, Politico and others reported on it earlier.

Zuckerberg, 28, has already used his Facebook wealth to address political issues close to him. He donated \$100 million of Facebook stock to

Newark, N.J., schools. He also has announced plans to donate nearly \$500 million in stock to a Silicon Valley charity to fund health and education issues.

In February he hosted a campaign event in his Palo Alto, Calif., home for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Lawyer: reality star learned of divorce from press

ATLANTA (AP)—A lawyer for reality television star Porsha Williams says she learned from the media that her former NFL player husband had filed for divorce.

Former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Kordell Stewart filed for divorce in Fulton County Superior Court in At-

lanta Friday. The filing says his marriage to Williams is "irretrievably broken." The pair appears on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of Atlanta."

Lawyer Randy Kessler said Wednesday that Williams would have liked to have heard the news of the divorce filing

from her husband and is disappointed that he misled her.

Stewart's filing says the two married on May 21, 2011, and have no children together.

Stewart asks the court to find there are no marital assets to divide. He asks that neither side be ordered to pay alimony.

Gay marriage equality logo spreads on social media

NEW YORK (AP)—Companies and celebrities from Beyonce to George Takei have joined millions of social media users in posting and tweaking a simple red logo in support of gay marriage in the United States.

A square box with thick pink horizontal lines, the mathematical symbol for equal, was offered for sharing this week by the Human Rights Campaign as the U.S. Supreme Court took up arguments in key gay rights cases.

The image is a makeover of the advocacy group's logo, usually a blue background with bright yellow lines. The HRC made it available in red—for the color of love—on Monday and estimated tens of millions of shares by Wednesday.



This image released by the Human Rights Campaign shows a redesign of their logo.

"It shows the enthusiasm and the passion," said Fred Sainz, a spokesman for the nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

Some swapped matzoh for the pink lines as Passover got under way.

Beyonce, with more than 44 million followers on Facebook,

added a personal message: "It's about TIME!!! (hash)EQUALITY (hash)MarryWhoYouLove."

Fergie let the image speak for itself on Twitter, adding: "No words necessary."

"There's a lot of serious conversation going on, and there's an awful lot of important concepts that the Supreme Court justices are discussing," Sainz said. "What this logo going viral means is, individuals have reduced it to a very straightforward concept."

Steve Jones, a professor of online culture and communications at the University of Illinois at Chicago, wondered whether all the mash-ups muddle the message.

"Was this message intended to be fun?" he asked.

Pressure to have sex causes girl to feel relationship angst

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for several months. He's fun and caring, and we spend a lot of time together. He's different from other boys I have dated. We can talk to each other about anything.

My only concern is our relationship physically. He makes it very clear that he wants to go all the way with me. He isn't rude or pushy about it. I don't want to rush into anything. We are both virgins (he does have more experience), and while I have known him for a long time, I don't know him as well as I'd like.

I want to wait until we have dated for at least six months. He says he respects my decision and says he doesn't want to pressure me. I still feel a little rushed. All of our friends have had sex, but I don't want it to be about our hormones in the heat of the moment.

I hate saying no to him. I know he won't leave me, but I feel bad for leaving him frustrated. Would it be wrong to agree to having sex with him—something we both want—even if I don't know if we're ready for the next step?

UNSURE IN CANADA

DEAR UNSURE: Yes, it would be wrong. The first time you have sex it should be because you are 100 percent sure you are ready, and he is the right person. If that's not the case, you will be cheating yourself.

And as for feeling guilty because you are leaving him frustrated—I have a solution. Socialize with him in group settings and spend less time alone together. That way there will be less frustration for him and less temptation for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother raising a 15-year-old son. For most of his life it has just been the two of us. I now regret that I put him in bed with me when he was a baby. As he grew older, I encouraged him to sleep in his own bed, but it would last only a few nights, and then he would sneak back into my room.

I was married for three years when he was around 11, and he'd sneak into my husband's and my bedroom after we were asleep and sleep on a couch in there.

His problem is he is terrified of the dark and believes in ghosts, monsters, etc. He says he has a phobia and I believe him. I tried getting a dog for him to sleep with and night-lights, but nothing worked. If I lock him out, he lays awake all night, scared to death.

I kept thinking he would grow out of this, but he hasn't. Please help. I can't really afford therapy, but if you think he needs it, I will try.

TROUBLED IN ARIZONA

DEAR TROUBLED: Some sessions with a psychologist who specializes in phobias would be the quickest way to help your son overcome his problem. And when you consult with one, I am sure the therapist will recommend that your son stay away from violent video games, and movies or television shows that feature ghosts, monsters or anything else that goes "bump" in the dark because they could only increase his fears.

DEAR ABBY: I'm different from other girls. I don't wear girly clothes. I prefer dark clothes and makeup. My mom thinks I'm strange because I dress differently. Do you think I look like a freak for not conforming, or is there nothing wrong with being different?

DIFFERENT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR DIFFERENT: I would never call you a "freak" because of your attire. It is common for young people to express their individuality by their dress, hairstyle and makeup. There is, however, a point when a person's style choices can be limiting.

My question for you would be, "Are you getting the kind of attention you WANT from presenting yourself this way?" The answer should determine how you choose to dress.

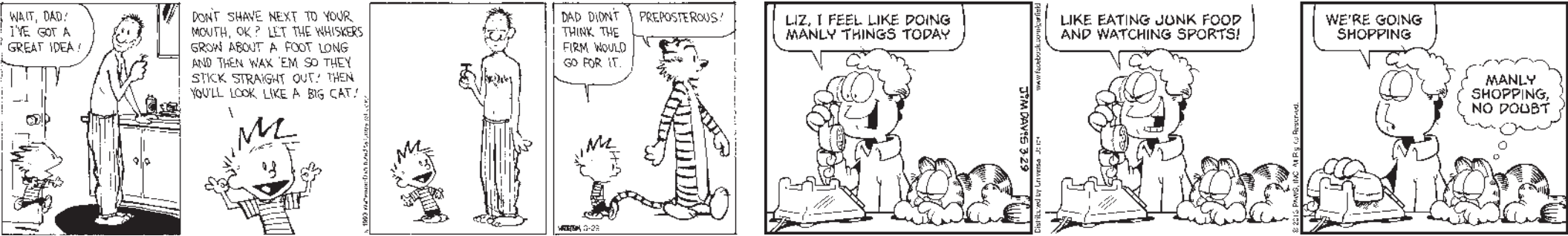
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

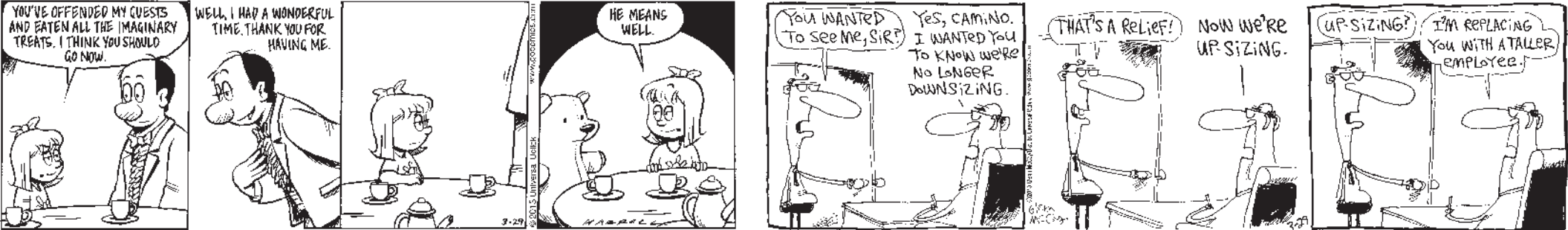
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fruity spread

4 Scrabble piece

8 Tarzan's clique

12 "The — Daba Honey-moon"

13 Valhalla VIP

14 Existed

15 Troop group

17 Release

18 Is frugal

19 Ostrich's cousin

21 Cauldron

22 Let up

26 Photo book

29 Ever-green type

30 Pond carp

31 Sudden shock

32 Blue

33 Desirous look

34 Fuss

35 Arctic diver

36 Move laterally

37 New

39 A billion years

40 Bearded beast

41 Heavy hammer

45 Overly proper one

48 Dweller

50 Mexican entree

51 "Zounds!"

52 Varnish

53 "So be it"

54 Sources for sauces

55 Ordinal suffix

DOWN

1 Super-market lineup

2 Help on the sly

3 Creche trio

4 Long, narrow drum

5 That is (Lat.)

6 Jeremy of basketball

7 Went in

8 Terrible

9 For one

10 Preceding

11 Diocese

16 Suggestions

20 Kitten's comment

23 — out (supple-mented)

24 Yuletide refrain

25 Grow weary

26 Open slightly

27 Source of riches

28 United nations

29 Talk on and on

32 Surgical stitching

33 Queued (up)

35 Curry or Coulter

36 Cubes, spheres, et al.

38 Incite

39 English composition

42 Take out of context?

43 Summer-time pest

44 Leave a lasting impres-sion

45 Bake sale org.

46 Aries

47 Lemieux milieu

49 Swelled head

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Chastain, 32; Megan Hilty, 32; Lucy Lawless, 45; Amy Sedaris, 52.

Happy Birthday: Rely on your gut feeling regarding partnerships. Being with the right person will make a huge difference to how much you achieve. Balance will be necessary, but once you have your path laid out, you will be able to drum up support as you make your way to the finish line. Don't allow anyone to push you around. Your numbers are 4, 9, 13, 26, 31, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Rely on your intelligence and your insight to lead you in the right direction. Refrain from making an impulsive move because someone is pressuring you. Make plans to get together with friends, relatives or someone you haven't seen in a long time. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get together with someone you respect or who has the expertise you need in order to pursue a new venture. Events that are geared toward learning as well as having fun will enable you to make new friends and hone your skills. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get down to business and finish what you start. You'll have a much better time once the work is complete and you can do as you please. Offering your services or help will boost your reputation. Love and romance are highlighted. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Treat colleagues diplomatically to avoid being talked about behind your back. Take a critical look at your current situation as well as what you

have to offer. Updating your skills or the way you do things will help you advance. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let responsibilities drag you down. Work hard and fast to put the work behind you. Traveling or getting together with someone special will encourage you to strive for a more fulfilling life-style. Love is on the rise. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Double-check your personal financial investments and papers. Making a couple of adjustments can save you from a loss. An experienced individual can offer you good advice regarding a partnership. Don't let pressure push you in the wrong direction. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something creative, get together with friends or do something with youngsters. Keeping busy or expanding your interests will leave you with some interesting thoughts about how you can raise your income and your standard of living. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your vision will be clear and a decision you make regarding your personal life, home and family will help you gain respect and the support you need to move forward with your plans. Invest in you and your talent. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your plans into motion. Fixing up your home or making a move that will improve your lifestyle is possible. Love is in the stars, and altering the way you do things will lead to an adventure that will bring you greater happiness. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everyone will agree with what you say or do. Be careful while traveling or doing anything physical. Minor mishaps will set you back. Taking an unusual approach to a job you are required to do will bring you recognition. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on past experience to help you deal with anyone questioning what you are doing now. Take care of any domestic changes that need to be implemented in order to make your life better. Someone you love will support and encourage you. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over any pending contracts, settlements or financial papers. You will have greater insight into ways you can increase your assets or raise your earning potential. Consider what you have to offer and invest in your future. *****

Birthday Baby: You are bold, resilient and persuasive. You are determined and intense.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	9	7	2	5	8	4	6
5	4	7	9	6	8	2	3	1
2	6	8	3	4	1	9	5	7
6	7	5	2	1	9	4	8	3
4	8	2	6	3	7	5	1	9
9	3	1	5	8	4	7	6	2
1	5	3	8	9	2	6	7	4
8	9	6	4	7	3	1	2	5
7	2	4	1	5	6	3	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/29

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF JR. (1934-2012) Solution: 13 letters

T E R T R S T M T R A I N R M
S Z E A R U O R R N D A E L A
Y N D C E A O O O L E V E L N
L O N T H B M T O D L O G H T
A R A I E O N S P I R M I G E
N B M C A E R T S T A F F U I
A R M Y R Y R E E T N U L O V
O E O T T E R G H J K S A T A
F N C U S N N A E R I A F N L
F D D E H A S S T N O R L O O
I A D O C C S T L I E M A O R
C Y N T H I A A R A L E M G T A
E O I I C M W A R O D I A A T
R V E A P U R P L E N E M L S
E F N A I T S I R H C G M P N

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Active, Analyst, Army, Bear, Brenda, Bronze, Chief, Christian, Commander, Cynthia, Desert, Duty, Fair, Flag, General, Gold, Heart, Hero, Honor, Jessica, Lead, Level, Medals, Military, Officer, Platoon, Purple, Silver, Smart, Staff, Star, Storm, Strong, Tactic, Tampa, Task, Tough, Tour, Train, Trenton, Troops, Valor, Vietnam, Volunteer, War

Yesterday's Answer: Chili

The NEW Treasury 15-cent stamp is a tribute to the late Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. It features a portrait of the late general, who died on Jan. 26, 2012, at the age of 77. The stamp is part of a series of 15-cent stamps honoring military leaders. The stamp is available in the United States and is part of the Treasury Department's "Treasury 15-cent" series. The stamp is available in the United States and is part of the Treasury Department's "Treasury 15-cent" series. The stamp is available in the United States and is part of the Treasury Department's "Treasury 15-cent" series.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Heat's winning streak ends at 27 in Chicago



CHICAGO (AP)—The streak is over. The big prize is still out there. That's what mattered most to LeBron James and the Miami Heat.

The Heat's bid for NBA history ended Wednesday night when their 27-game winning streak was snapped by the Chicago Bulls 101-97, setting off a raucous celebration inside United Center. Miami finished six shy of the 33-game record held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

With 11 games remaining, there's no time for Miami to take another shot at the record. A big run in the postseason would seem to be a sure bet.

After all, that's what it's about for the Heat. It's been that way ever since James and Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami in the summer of 2010.

They delivered last season, capturing a championship, and are eyeing a repeat.

The record? It would have been a bonus.

What stood out about the streak?

"I just think the way we compete," James said. "How we are on and off the floor. ... Ultimately, we want to win the NBA championship."

The streak that began on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, came to an end despite his best efforts.

James tried to spur yet another comeback in the final minutes, getting mad after a rough foul. But the reigning MVP could never get the defending champions even, much less ahead, down the stretch.

Luol Deng scored 28 points, Carlos Boozer added 21 points and 17 rebounds, and the Bulls brought the Heat's run to a screeching halt.

Miami's superstar did all he could to keep it going, scoring 32 points and even collecting a flagrant foul during a physical final few minutes.

"We haven't had a chance to really have a moment to know what we just did," James said. "We had a moment, just very fortunate, very humbling and blessed to be part of this team and be part of a streak like that."

The Heat hadn't lost since the Pacers beat them in Indianapolis on Feb. 1. But after grinding out some close wins lately, including a rally from 27 down in Cleveland, no one counted them out until the final buzzer.

For the better part of two months, they were the NBA's comeback kings. They erased seven double-digit deficits during the streak. They found themselves trailing in the fourth quarter 11 times, and won them all.

Not Wednesday.

"We understand, probably more so later on in our careers, the significance of that. And then that was it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We took that moment to acknowledge

it, to acknowledge each other, that experience, but it was never about the streak. We have a bigger goal, but also right now, it's about 'Are we getting better?'"

They walked off the floor stoically, not exchanging handshakes or pleasantries with the Bulls. James slapped high-fives with a couple teammates and coaches, then glared at a fan who touched his head as he walked toward the tunnel leading to the visitors' locker room.

James was frustrated on the court at times, and showed more of the same in the locker room afterward with regard to how he's officiated.

He cited two instances from Wednesday—a play in which Kirk Hinrich took him down with two hands in the first quarter, and Taj Gibson appearing to hit him around his neck with about 4 minutes remaining—where he thought the contact was excessive. Referees reviewed the Gibson hit, but did not award a flagrant foul. So, seconds later, James tried to barrel through Carlos Boozer on a screen, and got called for a Flagrant 1 himself.

"Those are not basketball plays and it's been happening all year," James said. "I've been able to keep my cool and try to tell Spo, 'Let's not worry about it too much,' but it is getting to me a little bit."

The Bulls, meanwhile, whooped and slapped hands with anyone they could reach after clinching a playoff berth.

"It's a five-second moment of reflection before we move on to the rest of the season," Wade said. "In here, it didn't feel like we were on this amazing streak."

What a run it was, though.

Spurs 100, Nuggets 99

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 14 rebounds and San Antonio escaped with a win over Denver when Nuggets veteran guard Andre Miller missed a short jumper at the buzzer.

Danny Green added 20 points and Tony Parker had 18 points and 11 assists for the Spurs, who remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Oklahoma City in the race for the top spot in the Western Conference. Kawhi Leonard chipped in with 11 points and Tiago Spiltter had 10.

JaVale McGee had 21 points and 11 rebounds, Wilson Chandler scored 15 points and Miller 14 for the Nuggets, whose reserves outscored their Spurs counterparts 59-18. Kenneth Faried and Danilo Gallinari added 12 points apiece and Andre Igoudala had 10.

Thunder 103, Wizards 80

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 21 points and Kevin Durant had 20 to help Oklahoma City beat Washington.

Kevin Martin added 18 points for the Thunder, who are 1 1/2 games behind San Antonio for



Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler, left, celebrates with forward Carlos Boozer after scoring a basket, as Nate Robinson, center, watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat in Chicago on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

the top spot in the West.

Washington had won its previous two games against Oklahoma City, winning the only meeting during the lockout-shortened 2011-12 season before stunning the Thunder 101-99 in Washington on Jan. 7.

Wall, coming off 47 points in a win over Memphis, had 18 points and 12 assists for Washington but was 3-of-18 from the field.

Knicks 108, Grizzlies 101

In New York, J.R. Smith scored 35 points, his second straight 30-point game, and New York withstood a furious rally to beat Memphis.

Carmelo Anthony added 22 points and Iman Shumpert had 16 as the Knicks tied a season high with their sixth straight win.

After trailing by as many as 30 early in the second half, the Grizzlies cut their deficit to 103-99 on Tony Allen's two free throws with 33 seconds left. However, they got no closer as Raymond Felton, Smith and Anthony scored the game's next five points at the free throw line.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 26 points, Bayless had 24 and Allen had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Clippers 105, Hornets 91

In New Orleans, Blake Griffin scored 19 points and Chris Paul added 16 points and nine assists to lead Los Angeles over New Orleans.

Caron Butler and Jamal Crawford each scored 13 for the Clippers, who were playing one night after falling in overtime at Dallas. Chauncey Billups briefly returned from a right groin strain to score 11 points before leaving the game with the same injury.

The Clippers opened up a 13-point lead in the fourth quarter and pulled even with Denver for the third-best record (49-23)

in the West.

Eric Gordon scored 24 and Anthony Davis had 19 points and nine rebounds for New Orleans.

Pacers 100, Rockets 91

In Houston, Roy Hibbert scored a season-high 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and Lance Stephenson added a season-high 21 points to lead Indiana to a victory over Houston.

The Pacers never trailed and led by as many as 19 points. Houston made several runs, once cutting the deficit to four, but Indiana answered each time. The Central Division-leading Pacers weren't back to full strength but got a boost from the return of Stephenson, who missed Indiana's last game with a strained right hip flexor, and George Hill, also sidelined with a strained left groin.

James Harden had 22 points and eight assists for the Rockets, whose winning streak was snapped at three games.

Nets 111, Blazers 93

In Portland, Oregon, Reggie Evans grabbed a career-high 26 rebounds and matched his career high with 22 points, leading Brooklyn to a win over Portland.

It was the Nets' 20th road win of the season, matching a franchise best. Brook Lopez added 28 points for the Nets, who built a big lead early and stretched it to as many as 30 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 24 points despite rolling his right ankle in the first half and briefly leaving the game.

Most of the Nets starters had retreated to the bench before Portland pulled within 101-87 on Luke Babbitt's 3-pointer with six minutes remaining. The starters returned, but Portland got no closer.

Lakers 120, Timberwolves 117

In Minneapolis, Kobe Bryant

had 31 points and seven assists in his first game filling in at small forward for injured Metta World Peace, leading Los Angeles over Minnesota.

Dwight Howard had 25 points, 16 rebounds, five blocks and five steals, and Pau Gasol added 17 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who had lost three in a row and were playing their first game without their defensive stopper. World Peace will have surgery on a torn meniscus on Thursday, leaving the Lakers to chase the playoffs without him.

Nikola Pekovic had 19 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost the last 22 meetings against the Lakers and haven't beaten them since March 2007.

Hawks 107, Raptors 88

In Toronto, Al Horford scored 26 points, Jeff Teague had 24 points and 13 assists and Atlanta clinched a playoff berth for the sixth straight season with a win over Toronto.

Josh Smith added 19 points for the Hawks, who used a 16-0 run midway through the fourth to win for the 13th time in the last 15 meetings with the Raptors.

Horford reached double digits for the 31st consecutive game, the second-longest streak of his career. He did it in 33 straight games in 2009-10.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 19 points, and Rudy Gay had 15 points and matched a season best with 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who have lost four straight and 11 of 14.

Celtics 93, Cavaliers 92

In Cleveland, Jeff Green scored 21 points and hit the winning layup at the buzzer, helping Boston snap a five-game losing streak with a win over Cleveland.

Brandon Bass scored 22 points to lead the Celtics, who rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to avoid matching their longest skid of the season.

After Cleveland's Alonzo Gee knocked the ball out of bounds with 2.1 seconds left, Green took an inbound pass from Avery Bradley at the top of the key, drove into the lane and scored over two defenders as time expired.

Wayne Ellington had 16 points for Cleveland, which has lost six in a row to match a season high.

Kings 105, Warriors 98

In Oakland, California, Isaiah Thomas had 31 points and seven assists, and DeMarcus Cousins added 14 points as Sacramento put another dent in Golden State's playoff chase.

Marcus Thornton scored 13 points off the bench and helped harass Stephen Curry to send Sacramento to its first road win against a team with a winning record all season. The

Kings entered the game an NBA-worst 6-30 on the road.

David Lee had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Curry finished with 17 points and 12 assists on a difficult shooting night for the Warriors point guard. Golden State (41-32) missed an opportunity to build its lead on seventh-place Houston (39-32), which remains a game back in the West.

76ers 100, Bucks 92

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes had 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday and Damien Wilkins each scored 18 points to lead Philadelphia past Milwaukee.

Thaddeus Young and Dorell Wright both scored 14 points for the Sixers, who returned from a 1-3 road trip to win their third straight game at home.

Brandon Jennings was scoreless for Milwaukee and benched in the fourth quarter. Monta Ellis scored 29 points for the Bucks and Ersan Ilyasova had 13 points and 18 rebounds.

The Sixers wasted an 18-point lead and needed a few big shots from long range in the fourth to make it a game. Wright, Holiday and Evan Turner each hit a 3-pointer to help the 76ers rally.

Jazz 103, Suns 88

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson and Gordon Hayward scored 25 points apiece and Utah beat Phoenix to stay within a game of the eighth-place Lakers in the Western Conference playoff race.

Jefferson finished 12 of 23 from the field and also had nine rebounds, two blocks and two steals for Utah.

The Jazz used a 10-0 run to open the fourth quarter and led by as many as 19 while outscoring Phoenix 56-32 in the paint.

Wesley Johnson had 22 points and Luis Scola 20 to lead the Suns, who allowed Utah to shoot 52 percent in dropping their fourth straight.

Bobcats 114, Magic 108

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson and Kemba Walker each scored 34 points, and Charlotte handed injury-riddled Orlando its eighth straight loss in a matchup of the NBA's worst teams.

The Bobcats erased a 19-point, first-quarter deficit behind the shooting of Henderson, who finished 12 of 18 from the field and 9 of 10 from the foul line.

Walker did a little bit of everything, dishing out nine assists and grabbing seven rebounds as the Bobcats won for the fourth time in their last five home games.

Tobias Harris had a career-high 29 points and nine rebounds, and rookie Kyle O'Quinn had a career-best 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic.

'The Shot' is still hot topic 26 years later



WASHINGTON (AP)—No list of great NCAA championship game moments is complete unless Keith Smart's jumper for Indiana in 1987 is on it.

Known by Hoosiers fans to this day as "The Shot," and known in much less complimentary terms by Syracuse faithful, that 16-foot jumper from the left side with 5 seconds to play is a film clip staple throughout March.

The memory of "The Shot," which gave Indiana a 74-73 victory, is still with Smart, now the coach of the Sacramento Kings, while Jim Boeheim, still the coach at Syracuse, revisited it every day for 16 years.

"It's pretty much every day," Smart said Wednesday when asked how often he thinks about the jumper that made him a hero in Bloomington and a villain in Syracuse. "Probably every other day something happens. I'll go somewhere to eat, or when we travel, I check into the hotel and somebody sees the name tag on the bag and they'll mention something about 'The Shot' then. Very seldom does a week go by without something that happens."

Boeheim knew exactly how long it took for him to stop thinking about Smart's play on a regular basis.

"We played very well in the

game. When you lose a game like that, you really almost never get over it. I got over it in 2003," Boeheim said, referring to the Orange's first national championship, played in the same building—the New Orleans Super Dome. "I probably thought about it for those 16 years most of the time."

"I never think about it anymore. Coach (Bob) Knight was good after the game. He told me we would get back and win it, he just didn't tell me it would take 16 years. He's smart, just not that smart."

"The Shot" has been summoned from the archives even more than usual this week because Indiana and Syracuse will meet in the East Regional semifinal Thursday night, their fourth meeting since the national championship game, but the first in the NCAA tournament.

"Probably this year more than anything, you had more people talk about its significance," Smart said. "Even when I saw the brackets, I said, 'The possibility of them coming together is pretty high.' And lo and behold it came into play. You hear a little bit more conversation because of that now, because it happened against Syracuse."

A great championship game came down to the final minute. With 38 seconds left, Syracuse's Howard Triche—the

uncle of current Orange guard Brandon Triche—made the first of two free throws for a 73-70 lead. Six seconds later Smart scored to cut the lead to one. Four seconds later, Syracuse freshman Derrick Coleman, who finished with 19 rebounds, missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Boeheim had taken his players off the lane, conceding the rebound. Smart got the rebound. The play was supposed to go to Steve Alford, the current coach at New Mexico, who had already made six 3-pointers in the first NCAA tournament played with a 3-point line.

"It was designated for Steve, of course, but we moved the ball around," Indiana's Darryl Thomas said that Monday night. "It came to me and I kicked it out to Keith and he hit the basket."

Smart, one of the first junior college transfers to play for Knight, summed up the play at the postgame news conference.

"Tonight was my turn. ... I thank Darryl for not taking the last shot and passing out to me. ... It was a wise decision on his part."

Twenty-six years later Smart is still talking about "The Shot" because people keep asking him about it.

"I understand it. Every person, boy, girl, man or child, they want to talk about the moment or what they were

doing when it happened," he said. "I don't know this person and this person comes up with all this excitement, what am I supposed to do? 'Nah, nah, I don't want to talk to you?' Nah. That's your moment and if you want to talk about, let's talk. It's going to be brief anyway. I won't rain on their parade or anything like that."

Smart is quick to recall the first time he spoke with Boeheim about it.

"When we were getting ready for the draft, kind of doing some background on different players, I called Jim Boeheim because I was looking at Dion Waiters. I called to get some information on Dion," Smart said, referring to the Syracuse guard who went on to be the No. 4 overall pick by Cleveland last June. "I called him. I said, 'Coach, this is a name from the past.' He answers the phone and says, 'A name from the past?' I said,

'This is Keith Smart. Coach Smart.' He said, 'Keith Smart, Keith Smart, Keith Smart. Let me tell you: it took me a long time to get over that.' I said, 'Coach, I would not have called you if you hadn't won one. I'd have had somebody else give you a call.' We had a good conversation after that."

Brandon Triche said he and his uncle haven't spent much time talking about the game.

"I have seen him play, but I haven't seen the actual whole game," said Triche, who said he gets called Howard on occasion. "I think watching, it was like a missed assignment. I haven't directly talked to him about it."

As with all plays that decide a championship there are the two sides and their reaction.

"It's always difficult when you lose in the championship game, the last game of the year and the last shot," Boeheim said. "That's always a difficult thing."

Smart said his current players and family are proving his college coach correct.

"They replay it all the time, every year," Smart said of his players. "They all went to college and when Indiana gets beat somewhere, they're always like, 'Oh, Indiana lost or this or that.' But I'll always have the last laugh. I played at Indiana and I won."

"That's what Coach Knight said to us after the game, 'You guys have no idea what you've done. Sure, you've won a championship. But it won't really sink in until it's 25 or 30 years from now, when your kids see it. That came to fruition about 15 years ago, my son was probably around 10. We were waiting for the tournament to come on, and they showed 'The Shot.' My son goes, 'Dad, look at you!' I was like, 'Wow, cool.' Just like Coach said after the game that night. It came true."

Source: Wainwright, Cards strike \$97.5M deal



Adam Wainwright and the Cardinals have agreed to a new contract that guarantees the Cardinals' ace an additional \$97.5 million over five years through 2018.

Wainwright had been eligible to become a free agent after the World Series.

The new agreement, first reported by foxsports.com, was confirmed by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been announced. The Cardinals scheduled a news conference for Thursday at their spring training camp in Jupiter, Fla.

A 31-year-old right-hander, Wainwright was 14-13 with a 3.94 ERA last year after missing the Cardinals' World Series championship season in 2011 because of elbow surgery.

Wainwright was 20-11 with a 2.42 ERA in 2010 and was an NL All-Star. (AP)



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NMA sets qualifiers for 3 off-island meets

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics are holding qualifying tournaments to select the CNMI representatives to three off-island competitions this year.

The first qualifier will take place tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex, while the second is set for April 6 and those who will make the grade in the two trials will carry the CNMI colors in the 2013 IAAF World Youth Championships, 2013 Oceania Area Championships, and the 2013 IAAF World Championships.

NMA coach and development officer Elias Rangamar in a brief telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said one athlete (16 to 17 age group) will be sent to the youth competition, which will be held in Donetsk, Ukraine, from July 10 to 14. In the world championship, which will run from Aug. 10 to 18 in Moscow, Russia, the Commonwealth is allotted two slots—one male and one female. As for the Oceania contest, which is set from June 3 to 15 in Papeete, Tahiti, Rangamar said the CNMI is likely to send 6 to 8 athletes.

Rangamar added that for the tournament in Ukraine, NMA will choose the winner in the 100m qualifying race in the U18 division, while the representatives to Moscow will come from the Open division for the same sprint event. For the Oceania qualifiers, NMA will select from both U18 and open divi-



High school students, seen here competing in the 100m race in the All Schools trials last week at the Oleai Sports Complex, are invited to join NMA's qualifying tournaments for three off-island events

sion in running, throwing, and jumping events.

Tomorrow's qualifier will start with the open (men's and women's) and U18 100m race at 4:30pm, followed by long jump, and shot put. Up next are the 1,500m race (4:50pm), discus and 200m (5:20pm), and the 3,000m for female U18.

For the April 6 qualifier, NMA will have the open (male and female) 400m, triple jump, and javelin at 4:30pm, 100m hurdles for female at 4:50pm, 110m hurdles for male at 5pm, and the 5,000m run for both male and female at 5:15pm.

While there is no qualifying time for the competition in Mos-

cow and Ukraine, the Oceania meet has and standard marks should have been recorded between August 2012 and May 2013, according to the Oceania Athletics Association's memo.

For the 100m race, the standards are 11.30 seconds (open men), 13.20 seconds (open women), 11.70 seconds (boys U18), and 13.70 (girls U18). Other qualifying marks for men's and women's open and boys and girls U18, respectively are: long jump (6.00m, 4.80m, 5.60m, 4.40m); shot put (12.50m, 9.50m, 11.00m, 9.50m); 1,500m run (4:20.00, 5:20.00, 4:30.00, and 5:25.00); discus (36.00m, 30.00m,

34.00m, 28.00m); 200m (23.30 seconds, 27.00, 24.00, and 28); and 3,000m (13:00.00 for the girls U18 only).

For the April 6 trials, the qualifying marks are: 400m run (51 seconds, 59, 55, and 1:03); triple jump (12m, 10.50m, 11.60m, 10m); javelin (45m, 32m, 40m, 32m); 100m hurdles (17 seconds for open female and 18 seconds for girls U18); 110m hurdles (17 seconds for open men and 16.50 seconds for boys U18); and 5,000m (17:20 for open men and 22:30 for open women).

For more information about the qualifiers, contact Rangamar at 989-5225 or send email to eliasrangamar@hotmail.com.



YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Name: **Donovan Torres**
Age Group: **U12**
Team: **Kanoa FC**
Position: **Center Defense**
Jersey No.: **#14**
Village: **San Antonio**
School: **William S. Reyes Elementary School**
Grade: **5th**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: When I was younger, I used to see people play soccer, so I was encouraged to try it.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: The game is a lot of fun and I really love to play defense.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: I played forward once and I almost scored.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Do your best every game



Name: **Princess Alcantara**
Age Group: **U12**
Team: **Kanoa FC**
Position: **Forward**
Jersey No.: **#2**
Village: **Chalan Kanoa**
School: **William S. Reyes Elementary School**
Grade: **5th**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I saw people playing and the game looked interesting and fun.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I enjoy playing with my friends.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: When I scored the most goals for WSR.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Enjoy, have fun, and play fair.

"Donovan is committed and has shown significant improvement. His dribbling and shootings skills are promising. We are a new club with new players, so we expect him to continue showing improvement during practice and actual games." Donovan's coaches Andreau Galvez, Raphael Zapanta, and Marc Mora.

"Princess is committed and has shown significant improvement. Her dribbling and shootings skills are promising. We are a new club with new players, so we expect them to continue showing improvement during practice and actual games." Princess' coaches Andreau Galvez, Raphael Zapanta, and Marc Mora.

PIC tennis tourney kicks off next month



13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships will be held next month with matches taking place for two weekends at the Pacific Islands Club hard court in San Antonio.

Week 1 of the annual tournament will feature junior singles and the men's and women's doubles and will run from April 5 to 7. Interested players have only until today at 6pm to register for the first week of the competition. Junior players can enter in the U12, U15, and U18 divisions, while the adults doubles will offer open, 4.0, and 3.0 in the men's division and open and 3.0 in the women's category.

Registration fees are \$25 and \$40 for singles and doubles, respectively and cash prizes will be given to winners in the Open singles and doubles divisions. Other winners and finalists will get prizes from tournament sponsors PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Gatorade, Monster, Wallace Hollywood Theaters, and Thai Spa. All players will also receive water park passes during the tournament.

For Week 2 of the tourna-



Tim Quan makes a return from the backcourt during his semis match against Bobby Cruz in the men's open singles division of the PIC tournament last year at the PIC hard court.

ment, which will take place from April 12 to 14, PIC will have the adults singles with the men's division also offering three categories (open, 4.0, and 3.0) and the women's having only two (open and 3.0). The juniors doubles will also

be held in Week 2 and will have the U15 and U12 age groups for both girls and boys, while PIC will feature a mixed doubles, too, for open and 3.0 divisions.

Deadline for submission of entries for Week 2 is on April 5 at 6pm. Entry forms can be

picked up and should be turned in at the PIC Information Desk from 9am to 5pm daily.

For more information, contact tournament director Dennis Tababa at 237-5173 or send email to dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Heat's winning streak ends at 27 in Chicago

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Saipan Tribune Sports

NMA sets qualifiers for 3 off-island meets

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

DOCOMO SPRING BREAK CAGING

Rainbow Supply wins championship



Team Rainbow Supply and their coach Ed Diaz pose with event coordinator James Lee, right, after winning the Docomo Pacific Spring Break Basketball Tournament's U17 youth division last Tuesday in the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rainbow Supply narrowly escaped Proa, 42-39, to win the Docomo Pacific Spring Break Basketball Tournament's U17 youth division last Tuesday at the Gillette Multi-purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.



The team is made up of Mike Aricaga, William Camacho, Michael Cenir, Sam Darag, Michael Espinosa, John Fidelino, Wilfredo Francisco, Kobe Mendoza, C.J. Morales, and Kyle Rios. Rainbow Supply was coached by Joe Diaz.

The team received a team trophy and free water park passes courtesy of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Rainbow Supply advanced through the round-robin eliminations held over the weekend as the third-ranked team out of four contenders with an even 2-2 win-loss record.

They started off with a strong 79-38 victory over Sherwin

See RAINBOW on Page 30

MP United outclasses Vivid Blue



MP United and Vivid Blue players and coaches pose for a group photo before their championship match in the Pacific Ocean Cup 2 last Sunday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Host MP United went undefeated in the Pacific Ocean Cup 2 to rule the four-team competition held last Sunday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

MP United swept all three games in the preliminary round and then survived the visiting Vivid Blue Soccer School in a shootout in the finals, 3-1, to clinch the championship and make up for its 1-5 title loss against Nagaoka SSS in the inaugural Pacific Ocean Cup in Japan in September last year.

The Pacific Ocean Cup 2 champion is composed of goalie Clayton Izuka, Michael Lee, Alex Kim, Daniel Kim, Alex Park, Steven Martin, Sunjoon

See MP UNITED on Page 30

Shutout wins in Women's M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United led two other teams in posting shutout wins in Week 4 of the Women's M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. MP United topped Matansa FC

last Tuesday, 3-0, to recover from a 1-5 loss to Shirley's in Week 3 and improve to a 2-1-1 win-draw-loss record. Matansa remained winless with its 0-0-4 slate.



Manami Tadokoro drew first blood for MP. See SHUTOUT on Page 30



An MP United player goes for the inbound during their Week 3 game against Shirley's FC in the Women's M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Red Sox, Enforcers, Ol'Aces atop batting charts

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Craig Aguon and Rep. Antonio Sablan Comets' Franco Nakamura are leading the Junior Division in both hitting and pitching,

according to the latest statistics released last Saturday by Saipan Little League Baseball.

Meanwhile, the Senior Division is a wide open race, while Big League's Brian Camacho of Paradise Island Animal Hospital

See RED SOX on Page 30



The Padres' Brian Camacho is currently leading the Big League in batting average after making contact 15 times in 27 at bats for a 0.556 norm.